

The Many Moods of Christmas

Sunday, December 19 // 9:30 a.m.

A beautiful presentation of classic favorites of the season with the St. Paul's Chorale and guest orchestra




**Children's
Christmas
Pageant
&
FELLOWSHIP**

DECEMBER 19

DURING THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL HOUR

Christmas Eve
WORSHIP

5pm Contemporary Service

7pm Traditional Service

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings St. Paul's Community,
Recently (Sunday morning 11/21) we talked about the fact that we are a community of people with diverse gifts and roles, yet united by our mutual love of Messiah Jesus. We were challenged by Paul's words in I Corinthians 12 to not give in to either the feeling of insignificance or of independence. The legend of *The Rabbi's Gift* has been told and retold for generations. More recently it has become better known thanks to M. Scott Peck's retelling of it in his 1987 book, *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace*. Enjoy reading it and let Messiah Jesus speak to you from it.
Love and blessings,
Don

The Rabbi's Gift

There is a legend called "**The Rabbi's Gift.**" It's the story of a dying monastery. At one time, this Christian monastery had been a thriving community filled with people who were serving the Lord in a variety of ways, but things had slowed down over the years until finally there were only five brothers left. All were elderly; all were lonely.

The monastery stood at the edge of a beautiful forest. Sometimes a wise Jewish rabbi went out into the forest to wander alone and to meditate. The abbot of the monastery and the Jewish rabbi were good friends, and often they talked. Many times the abbot would explain that things were not going so well at the monastery; he would say he didn't think it would last much longer. He would ask if there were a word of advice this wise Jewish rabbi could give him. The rabbi would shake his head: "I have no wisdom for you. I'm sorry."

They would read the Scriptures together, weep together for a while, then each would return to his home. But as they met together one day, the rabbi said, "I don't know why, but I do have a word for you today." It wasn't a word of advice; it really didn't have anything to do with the troubles of the monastery. The rabbi said to the abbot, "The Messiah is one of you." They both shook their heads and thought: *That's strange.*

They had their Scripture reading and their prayers, and then the abbot went back to the monastery. At mealtime his comrades asked him, "What did you talk about today?" "It was interesting. The rabbi said, 'The Messiah is one of you.'" They all chuckled a bit, and no one mentioned it again.

But in the months that followed, something changed in that monastery—something subtle, something warm and fresh and new. Each of the brothers began to think about that statement, "The Messiah is one of you," and began to look at the others closely. They began to see little ways in which that statement might be true about someone else. Maybe the abbot was, indeed, the Messiah. Maybe Brother Philip was. Maybe Brother Thomas, or Brother Aelred, or.... Certainly, each of them had some of the graces that would be a characteristic of the Messiah's life.

And here's the funny thing. They began to treat one another more kindly. In little ways, they became more respectful to each other. They began to seek one another out for fellowship and for fun and for play and wisdom. And something began to happen in that community. Love began to grow. Because the monastery was such a beautiful place, people used to come out from the surrounding cities and have picnic lunches on the lawn. More and more people seemed to be coming by, and they seemed to stay longer and enjoy talking more with the brothers who were part of that community. One day some people asked if they could actually stay in the monastery with the brothers, if they could learn from them what love was about, if they could share in the rich spirituality they had begun to feel in this place.

That was how the monastery became a haven for the hurting, the family for the lonely, the place of healing for those who had gone through some awful times in the world. One day they decided not to call it a monastery any more. They decided to call it a community—Messiah's Community. And over the gates of each entrance, they wrote a single line: "The Messiah welcomes you."



We are sponsoring 100 children with the purchase of Christmas gifts.

Names are still available.
You can sponsor one of the specific kids, or with a donation we can purchase the gifts for you.



Order your poinsettia

to honor and remember loved ones & friends
(will be placed in the sanctuary before Christmas)

\$10 each

contact the church with the following information, **by Dec 12**

- Your name and number of poinsettias that you would like.
- Wording that you would like, with
- "in memory of, in honor of, gratitude to God for, Merry Christmas to"

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SHUT-INS



Spread Christmas cheer!

Bring 30 Christmas cards,
signed with your name
by December 12

Place in designated box
in Welcome Center
or in the mailbox under the canopy

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Women's Fellowship —

There will be no regular meeting of the Women's Fellowship in December. Instead, the Wednesday Bible Study will join the Women's Fellowship for brunch on Wed., Dec 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Women's Fellowship will again gather for their monthly meeting on Wed., Jan. 12. Bring a sandwich and join us at 11:30 a.m. for fun and fellowship. Dessert and beverages are provided.

Christmas Decorating



MISSIONS NEWS

Missionary News – Al and Edie Lewis with ReachGlobal

The St. Paul's Mission Team recently learned of the upcoming retirement of Al and Edie Lewis who have worked faithfully with ReachGlobal for over 13 years. Al's ministry in training pastors, and Edie's role in training women in bible study skills have had tremendous impact around the world. Their team leader, Steve Hudson had these remarks: "Al and Edie have been an enormous blessing to pastors and their wives all over the world. Thousands of pastors and tens of thousands of congregants continue to be touched by their ministry. What started as one couple with a God-given passion for helping untrained pastors better handle God's Word has turned into a ministry with six full-time and four part-time staff training in twenty-four countries. We wish them well in their next chapter, and we are grateful for their years of faithful service that Lord willing will continue long into the future."

While Al and Edie had wanted to continue working awhile longer, Covid has restricted their travel and ministry, and with those restrictions continuing for the near future they felt it was best to retire. They are sad not to have finished their recent projects in Myanmar and Indonesia. Al and Edie will conclude their full-time ministry at the end of the year but will continue as volunteers with ReachGlobal and seek the Lord for other opportunities for ministry service. They are excited that their daughter and son-in-law will be joining ReachGlobal and continuing the legacy of support to the training of pastors. Al and Edie expressed thanks to all who have been their partners in prayer and financial support over the years. St. Paul's appreciates the fact that our support to Al and Edie has proven to be a force multiplier in training so many Pastors who are now leading people to the Lord around the world, and we pray blessings on their future.

From your Mission Team... Thank you to all who donated to our recent food drive. Even as we still deal with the effects of the pandemic, we were able to deliver 568 pounds of food and \$715 in monetary donations. This will enable Operation Food Search to supply food to a large number of needy families during the holiday season.



Thank you to all who donated to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign. After not participating in this project for a few years, we were able to provide 95 boxes to this worthy cause.



A New Baby Boy!

Winter Louis Kolmer

born September 2nd to
Brian & Kana, in Japan

His proud grandparents are
Mike & Janet Kolmer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Jean-Christophe Coste 12/2
Elsie Owens 12/2
Mike Kolmer 12/4
Anna Hellebusch 12/5
Zachary Pfeiffer 12/5
Ann Kallemeier 12/6
Kristine Williamson 12/6
Kari van Raalten 12/7
Hunter Hohmann 12/9
Jeff Stahlhut 12/9

Rebecca Daniel 12/10
James Standing 12/11
Susan Musselman 12/15
Susan Pollmann 12/17
Michael McGaully 12/18
Judy Pfeiffer 12/19
Donna Rosenfelder 12/19
Judy Graeler 12/20
Joe Glauert 12/21
Christine Vasel 12/21
Kenneth Broky 12/22
Susan Harrod 12/22
Janet Barzoff 12/23
Jeanne Speroulias 12/23

Carol Craig 12/25
Carol Grater 12/26
Julie Price 12/27
Fred Robinson 12/28
Karen Tucker 12/28
Randy Walter 12/28
Tammy Davis 12/29
Scott Schurwan 12/29
Samantha Immekus 12/30
Marilla Genignani 12/30
Betty Keely 1/2
Camila del Cid 1/4
Joan Knappenberger 1/4
Daniel Sjogren 1/5



Fred & Lela Vollmer 53 11/9
Bill & Susan Musselman 42 11/11
Craig & Cindy Bodenschatz 9 11/24
Craig & Amy Caesar 34 11/26
Mark & Tiffanee Swanson 14 11/28
Terry & Mary McDannold 32 12/2
Leslie & Jackson Browning 3 12/8

Eulah Mae Gertz went home to Jesus on November 7, 2021 at the age of 92. Eulah was a long time member of St. Paul's. Her funeral service was held in California Missouri.



THE TRUE
SPIRIT OF
CHRISTMAS
is LOVE

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St. Paul's Evangelical Church
9801 Olive Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63141



Sundays

Worship Service	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time	10:30 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Focus Youth Group	6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Quilters and More	9:30 a.m.
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Wednesdays

Women's Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
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12/5 Communion
12/15 Women's Brunch // 9:30am
12/14 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE
12/19 Cantata // 9:30 a.m.
Children's Pageant
& Fellowship // 10:30 a.m.
12/24 Christmas Eve Services
Contemporary // 5:00 p.m.
Traditional // 7:00 p.m.
12/27-28, 31 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED