

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:15-21

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”
¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Psalm 8

¹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! ²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.** ³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, ⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?** ⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them. ⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:** ⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, ⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.** ⁹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Pray for these we know to be in need of resolution, healing, support and comfort:



The Cisneros family; Ivy & John Conklin; Austin Marsh; Ewalani Odachi; Brian Kurihara; Rick Kurihara; George Aspeitia; Jim Gagne; Shanna Childers; Rosita Fabia; Ed Sais; Celia Torres; Bjorn Landberg; Carol & Larry Sullivan; Maxine Miller & her son, Leonard; Aki Fukui; Lilly Fukui; Pastor David Berkedal & Rev. Sally Welch; Susan & Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; for Stephen’s recovery; Ron Sahara and his family; Moises Alvarado for the safe return of his dog, Charlie; Rolf Kurrle & family; baby Ivy; In Paris, Elizabeth and her family; Ray Chavira; Ray Chavira’s daughter Cristina and son-in-law Troy Hamblet; Meher Montessori School; for churches, may our hearts and doors remain open for those who wish to share the Good News; for our country, our military and first responders; watch over those who are affected by the war in Ukraine; for those who are being wrongfully persecuted in Iran; for those struggling with anxiety and mental illness.

First Sunday of Christmas Name of Jesus January 1, 2023

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Sunday Service at 9:30 AM

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Phone: (323) 721-0840 - Email: stpaulsmpk@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook [@stpaulsmpk](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmpk) or our website stpaulsmpk.org

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am

While LA County has formally rescinded the masking order as of 3/4/22, masks are still being recommended for use in public settings, such as our worship space. For the safety of our at-risk members and our current visiting pastor, we ask that you consider wearing a mask and maintain social distancing for the time being.

If you have forgotten a mask, we do have extras, in both adult and kid sizes, in the Narthex.

News and Needs

- **These pages continue our approach to bringing information to those who gather here.** We are committed to communicating effectively and regularly with all, newcomers and long-time worshippers, regular or occasional, and especially those who can't be here. Each week a copy is sent by email or postal mail to each member and friend who were unable to attend worship on Sunday.
- **The Lord's Supper**, our sharing of the bread and wine as Jesus invites us to do, is open to all who accept the presence of Jesus in this simple meal. We continue to use pre-filled communion chalices for a sanitary, safe, and traditional communion experience. We rejoice in our opportunity to join together in praise and thanksgiving to God. Newcomers among us are invited to participate in every aspect of our worship. Any questions? Please ask.
- **We welcome Pastor David Berkedal as regular preacher and worship leader at St. Paul's.** Pastor Berkedal will be working on **Thursdays, from 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm.** in Monterey Park to help us develop the congregation's ministry and outreach as we move out of the global pandemic. He and his wife, Rev. Sally Welch began a Youtube Channel, "Streams of Living Waters" at the beginning of the pandemic to provide connection and encouragement and an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Christian during times of isolation. Each video has been matched with a podcast on their "Living Water Radio" channel and a blog entry on "Words of Living Water." You may send an email to Pastor Berkedal at dberkedal@gmail.com for links to all three or visit our website (stpaulsmpk.org).
- **Coffee Hour & Fellowship will be held in the lounge following today's service.** To get to the lounge from the sanctuary, please exit the glass doors at the back, go through the glass doors on the right and straight ahead to the open door of the lounge. Today's refreshments are provided by our pantry.
- **The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day.** For any emergencies, please contact Ed Sais.
- **Envelope boxes for 2023 have been ordered and are on the way.** Please note that any previous numbers you may have had will be changed.
- **Christ in Our Homes for January, February, and March of 2023 are available and are located on the back table in both pocket-sized and large print editions.**
- **The 134th Rose Parade presented by Honda and 109th Rose Bowl Game will return on January 2, 2023 starting at 8am PST.** Post Parade and all-day on January 3rd, there is Floatfest: A Rose Parade Showcase where you can get up close to the floats. Tickets are \$20 plus handling fee of \$1.50/ticket. Shuttles from PCC and the Rose Bowl are available and included with the purchase of a ticket.

FIRST READING: NUMBERS 6:22-27

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, ²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. ²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Prayer Ventures for New Year's Day:

Praise God for the grace and eternal life we receive through faith in Jesus Christ — gifts that free us from the dread of death so that we can fearlessly bear the gospel of love and hope into the world.



On January 29th immediately after service, we will be having our Annual Congregation Meeting in the lounge. Please bring any questions, concerns, comments, or committee nominations. Light refreshments will be served.

