



# THE Messenger

January Edition, 2023

## The Gate of the Year

**A**nd I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."



## Annual Reports

Yes, it is that time of the year already! If you are responsible for submitting a report for St. Paul's International Pastoral Charge Annual Report it should be given to Patty in the church office by January 30th or before if possible.

## Birthdays

January Birthdays – are you celebrating a birthday this month? Please let us know by signing the birthday board in the Narthex.

## Giving Envelopes

Giving Envelopes for 2023 are available for pick up in the Narthex. You may have been given a new giving number this year as we continue to shrink our envelope range as more of our church family move to PAR and use electronic means for their givings. Please pick up your 2023 envelopes and those of a family member or neighbour. Your assistance is much appreciated.

## White Gift - Christmas Hampers

The hamper program ran as a single city-wide program again this year. Thank you to St. Paul's family that so generously donated over \$3,500 this year to meet this vital need.

## Messy Church III

Messy Church III is being held Sunday, January 22, 2023 at Trinity Lutheran

**Mission Statement:** *St. Paul's United is a prairie-rooted, people church, centered on Holy Mystery. We experience the gift of grace – forgiveness, new life, God's unconditional love – as we open our doors and hearts to people of all ages, stages and walks of life. We live as a community of faith carried on the winds of God's Spirit.*

Church from 4 – 6pm. The previous two gatherings have been well attended and a lot of fun! Everyone is invited to this event. Family attendance is encouraged.



### **Angel Tree**

A heartfelt thanks goes out to those who helped at the Angel Tree, the Christmas Kettle, the Toy Store, and helped in the Christmas Hamper distribution.

### **Christmas Bazaar**

An update on the Christmas Bazaar. Financially, the Bazaar cleared over \$6,000. GREAT JOB! Apple crisp and mini apple pies are still available for purchase.

### **Everybody Wins**

We are all concerned about expenses and what the climate holds for us. One way we all win is to reduce the energy we use at St. Paul's. Turning off lights and refrigerators when not needed, wearing layers of clothing to worship on Sunday morning all help reduce expenses and help with climate change. These are only a few examples of what we can do as a church family to reduce our expenses and protect our future.

## **Community of Faith (CoF) Profile**

The Leadership Team has started the process of completing our *Community of Faith Profile*.

The regional council uses this profile as part of their oversight of the community of faith and as part of a self-assessment. Completing a profile can help to articulate your community's beliefs, ministry needs, and financial realities. This is who we are, and these are the resources we have.

Members of the CoF Profile committee are Sharilee Schnell, Lori Holden, Emily Gillies and Cheryl Deren.

## **Ecumenical Shared Ministry**

A motion will be presented at our next Annual Congregational Meeting to appoint three (3) members to a joint Ecumenical Shared Ministry Committee (ESMC). The purpose the ESMC is to develop a proposal for an ecumenical shared ministry involving the faith communities of St. Giles Anglican Church, St. Paul's United Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church. The proposal is to be presented to the faith communities of the three churches for study and discernment periodically during the year at Leadership Team



meetings and at our next annual meetings (2024).

### House Groups

The House Groups have been re-visited. House Groups are assigned responsibilities for a month. House Group leaders are responsible to get greeters. Greeters are asked:

- to get a key from the office ahead of their Sunday;
- unlock the doors of the church;
- greet the worshippers;
- bring offering forward during the service;
- ensure candles are out and lights turned off;
- lock the doors after service; and
- drop the key in the brown mailbox outside the front door.

Scripture readers come from a list of individuals that have volunteered. As part of their duties they are asked to light the Christ Candle.



### Have you time?

The Leadership Team and the Ministry/ Personnel Committee have vacancies.



Your service in filling one of these is essential. Contact Diane Wrubleski if you have an interest in these areas. Your input and presence would be of great value and appreciated.

### Financial Matter\$

January 1 — November 30, 2022	
Income	\$125,530
Expenses	\$161,420

### Men's Breakfast

A second men's breakfast is planned for January 22, 2023 at 8:00 am. The breakfast will be hosted by St. Giles Anglican Church.

### Organists/Pianists Required

St. Paul's is looking for itinerant organists and pianists to provide Sunday Worship music. Anyone interested is asked to contact the church office.

### Upcoming Events

- January 1, 2023 — **Ecumenical Worship of Carols** @11:00 am at St. Paul's. Our sisters and brothers of St. Giles and Trinity will join us.

- January 8, 2023 — **Worship led by Don Kindopp** @11:00 am.
- January 22, 2023 — **Men's Breakfast** @8:00 am at St. Giles Anglican Church.
- January 22, 2023 — **Messy Church III** @4-6 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church.
- January 29, 2023 — **Ecumenical Worship Service** @10:00 am at St. Giles Anglican church. No worship service at St. Paul's.
- The UCW is selling the **2023 Church Calendars** for \$10.00 each. The calendars are in! Please call the church office at 306-634-2885 to make arrangements for pickup. Those that still need to pay for their calendars can do so at that time. We do have a few additional calendars available for \$10 each, if anyone missed getting their name on the list!

### Memorial Gifts

You may wish to make a charitable donation to St. Paul's Memorial Fund in memory or honour of a loved one. Memorial gifts are used for special needs of the church, such as furnishings, instruments and music. Donations are recorded in a Memorial Book which is kept on display in the Church.

### Angels in My Life

There have been angels in my life.  
While they haven't arrived  
with a blast of trumpets  
or a rustle of wings,  
I've known them just the same.  
They performed their acts in  
human guise,  
sometimes borrowing the faces of family  
and friends,  
sometimes posing as  
well-meaning  
strangers.  
You've  
known them, too,  
when just the  
right word  
was needed,  
when a  
tiny act of  
kindness  
made a great difference...



or perhaps you heard a voice  
whispering in a night of sorrow,

the words not quite clear  
but the meaning unmistakable...

"There is hope...  
There is hope."