

"Making Disciples For Life"
Matthew 28:19-20

December 8, 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have all seen this happen. The large box sat unexplained in the corner of the living room for weeks. It just appeared there after Thanksgiving and sat untouched throughout most of December. My mom just assumed that Dad had used Black Friday as an excuse to buy himself another tool.

After all the gifts were opened on Christmas morning, my mom said, "Richard, aren't you going to open the big box and show us what you bought?"

Dad looked at her with a Santa sort of smile, "That gift isn't for me; it's for you."

Mom pried open the top of the box. She reached in and pulled out nothing but tissue paper. One armful after another.

"What's in here?" she asked, still pulling out paper. Finally, she struck pay dirt. A box within the box. She opened it to find another box, then another and another. At last, she reached the smallest of the boxes. A ring box. She smiled sheepishly and exclaimed, "Richard!"

I, being an adolescent boy, didn't understand the romantic significance of a new ring to a mother of five, from a husband who rarely showed any affection. But I did learn a lesson that Christmas: a remarkable gift can arrive in an unremarkable package. One did in the Burkee house that Christmas.

One did in Bethlehem, too.

Save the Date! Fundraiser for the Segura Family

- Plans are being made to host a volleyball tournament and fundraiser, ***Volley for Life***, to raise financial support for the Segura family **February 3rd-4th**. There will be opportunities for various ages and skill levels to play or you can come support the Segura family through other fundraisers. This event will be open to the community so if you'd like to form a team with anyone who's not a member of the St. Paul's family -- you are more than welcome to do so. Details to follow soon!

- **Singing Dates**-There are a few dates where our kids will be singing in church, please add these dates to your calendar and plan on your child being there.
 - December 10, 5:00 Grades 5-8
 - December 14, 6:00 Grades 3K, 4K, and K
 - December 17, 5:00 Grades 1-4
- **Teacher of the Year**-For the last few weeks we have been publicizing our District's Teacher of the Year nomination link. I am happy to report that three of our teachers have been nominated for Teacher of the Year! Winners will be announced soon. Our three nominees are:
 - Barb Heimsoth
 - Sarah Zellmer
 - Katie Scepanski
- **Meal Train**- The Segura Family has been such a blessing to so many people and the Lord has always given many blessings to them and will continue to do so. Their son Noah not only needs our prayers, but time to spend with his parents and siblings. To maximize the time Lisa and Frank can spend with Noah while he receives treatment for leukemia, our community needs to come together.

A meal train has been set up to lighten the burden of cooking/making meals for the family. You may also contribute financially to help cover costs of groceries, take-out meals, medical bills, etc. Let's show the Segura Family how much they are loved! ♥ Please contact Lisa to coordinate meal drop off times.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/g9ezym>



CHOICE MEETINGS

As most of you know, St. Paul's participates in the Wisconsin Parent Choice Program and the Milwaukee Parent Choice Program. One of the stipulations of the Choice Program is to hold two meetings per school year to meet with all families to answer any questions about the Choice Program, get any information about the Choice Program, and learn about the Choice Program. Our first meeting this school year was last night. The second meeting is set for **February 23RD at 6:30P.M.** Please come if you would like to learn more about the two Choice Programs in which St. Paul's participates.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

All school families are invited to worship with us each weekend. We understand that it is in worship where we draw closer to our God. In worship, God is present, and we have the opportunity to give thanks, receive forgiveness, gather with fellow believers, listen to His Word, pray for others, and to be strengthened in our faith to go out into the world to share Christ and to meet the challenges in everyday living. Our worship life also demonstrates how important God is to us and our families. As we teach our children God's truth, we model how important God is to us and should be in our lives as He is so good. Make it a priority to worship regularly and spend time in His Word this school year.



Come join us as we sing Christmas Carols throughout our neighborhood Sunday, December 11th at 6:00pm. We are going to share the Gospel with our neighbors through the wonderful gift of song. We will have hot chocolate and other goodies provided! Meet in the Fellowship Hall through the 79th Street doors.

Changes are coming to the Kitchen!

During the month of January, work will be taking place in the Kitchen to replace the sinks and cabinets on the South wall. **Please avoid using this area** during the month of January as the remodeling takes place and there will be no sinks available.

From the Pastor

*"And you shall give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."
(Matthew, chapter 1)*

Christmas is coming soon, just a little over two weeks away. I hope all the things you need to get done to get ready are well on the way. There are presents to buy and wrap, meals and gatherings to plan for, and perhaps your favorite Christmas kind of movie you like to watch again and again. A couple of my favorite movies are "A Christmas Carol" also know as simply, "Scrooge," and the original "Home Alone" movie.

All of those things just mentioned, and trips down Candy Cane Lane or other places to see Christmas lights, and Christmas concerts and other activities, they are truly wonderful. Yet, over the decades all those things have kind of overshadowed the true meaning of Christmas: the birth of God's Son to be the Savior of the whole world! Jesus came for you, me too! Jesus came to meet our great need: forgiveness of our sins.

So I would like to invite all of you to join us in worship to ponder, celebrate, and rejoice in the true meaning of Christmas. We will have three services on December 24, Christmas Eve: 3pm, 5pm, and 11pm. All of them will have a candlelight portion of the service. The 11pm service will have communion as well. We also have one service on December 25, Christmas Day, with communion. Indeed, Christmas is shortened from Christ's Mass. Mass is an older word for worship and communion.

So as one of my favorite Christmas hymns proclaims: "O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem." We gather in our hearts in Bethlehem, at the foot of the manger, in awe of God's gift of His Son. Come and bask in the peace, the joy, the hope, and the love that only Christ can bring.

With wonderful Christmas expectations,

Pastor Bender

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December 16	Christmas Store
Dec 22-Jan 3	Christmas Break – NO SCHOOL
January 4	Classes Resume
January 16	Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL
January 20	End of 2 nd Quarter
January 23	Report Card Day – NO SCHOOL

SPORTS SCHEDULE

December 10	Boys Varsity basketball @ Beautiful Savior 10:00am
	Girls Varsity basketball @ Beautiful Savior 11:00am

SINGING SCHEDULE

December 10	5-8 Grades 5:00pm
December 14	3K, 4K and Kindergarten 6:00pm
December 17	1-4 Grades 5:00pm



DECEMBER

Lillianna Gosling
Wyatt Hinkes-Gates
Sophia Schulz
Cooper Klich
Henry Sanchez Loomans
Paityn Radtke
Braelyn Zellmer
Layla Martinez
Audrey Segura
Jacob Smith
Juliana Rivers
Malachi Allmann
Ester Candelaria

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

1 – Juliana Rivers
4 – Autumn and Reagan Lovas
10 – Owen Geitz
12 – Denver Rudig
14 – Blake, Emilia and Ainsley Kosek
24 – Lillianna Gosling
31 – Taylor Cannon

May God continue to bless you in your Baptismal Grace!