

St. Paul's Epistle

"St. Paul's Lutheran Church glorifies God by connecting people to Jesus through teaching, serving, caring, & telling!"

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1700 Carridale Street SW Decatur AL 35601 256.353.8759 www.StPaulsDec.com



Friends in Christ,

Here at St. Paul's, the month of May is going to be busy. Very busy! Jam packed, in actuality!! Listing the major events and emphases in order (and hopefully not missing anything), we have: Confirmation Sunday, Mother's Day, Preschool Graduation, Preschool Sunday, Recognition of St. Paul's 12th Graders, Pentecost Sunday, and Trinity Sunday. And this is not

to mention the "less big" but equally important activities, including: the Confirmation Oral Exam Service, the new Ladies Bible Study, the new Men's Bible Study, and the monthly Young Adult fellowship events. Though I should also not neglect to mention the regular Kidz, Tweenz and Teenz (KTT) Chapels, the weekly Preschool Chapels, instruction from our dedicated Preschool staff, mentoring through St. Paul's KTT staff, the talented Prayer Shawl Ministry, the gifted Quilters fellowship, the artistic Banner makers, the Wednesday morning and evening adult Bible Study groups, adult Confirmation class, and of course the many St. Paul's boards that meet each month.

Now, I could still list more activities at St. Paul's (like the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) meetings and the exercise classes), as well as more ministry efforts (such as Elders visits to the homebound, and Trustees facility maintenance), but I think you probably already recognize that the members and staff of St. Paul's are very active in serving the Lord and those whom He has placed in our lives, all to bring honor to our Savior Jesus, who has redeemed us.

And by the way, I did not yet even speak of our tremendous Sunday School ministry with the most dedicated volunteer teachers and administrators, our talented handbells and choir ministries led by our director, our faithful Praise Team and organists, our humble Ushers and A/V volunteers, our committed Altar Guild workers and Elders, our willing Scripture readers, our loving CrossLife host families, our Blessing Box donors, as well as our city-wide-reaching radio ministry through WZDK 98.5 FM that broadcasts for free every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

The Lord has truly blessed us here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Preschool. The month of May, with all of the God-honoring efforts stated here, is an example of but one month out of the year where ministry is ongoing in this Christian fellowship. A congregation gathers to hear and study God's Word, receive the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper, and celebrate God's gift of Holy Baptism. As those who have been touched and changed by God's means of grace, we then are active in worshipping our Savior and are called to be faithful in supporting one another in Christ's love.

How exciting, as God's Baptized people, growing in His Word, who rejoice in sins forgiven and the newness of life our Risen Savior brings, that we are actively led by the very Spirit of God in living with heaven directly in view, even as we are temporary residents in a lost and dying world.

As you know, reports say that "Christianity is in decline" in our nation. And while the United States of America certainly appears, in ways, to be becoming non-Christian, anti or even "post" Christian in some parts, here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Preschool in Decatur, we clearly see that Jesus is alive and active in His people who sincerely trust in Him, love Him, worship Him, desire to serve Him and share about Him so that, prayerfully, others may come to know Him and also be saved through faith in Him.

So rejoice this May as we see and experience the Holy Spirit move in so many ways here at St. Paul's. And may God continue to bless each of you as we live together in fellowship in our Risen and Ascended Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ our Lord,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

May 2024

8:15am Traditional Worship
In-Church & Facebook Live
9:30am Sunday School all ages
10:00am WZDK 98.5 FM Radio
10:45am CrossLife in the ARC

Holy Communion May 5, 19

Staffed Nursery 8am until noon

Sunday Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study

Sundays 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 9:45am

Weekday Bible Studies

Wednesday Luke: 10:30

Revelation Bible Study

Wednesdays 6:00pm

Women's Bible Study 6:30pm

Thursday, May 2 and 16

Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
dates & times TBA

Looking Ahead

Preschool Moms & Muffins

May 2, 7-9am

Confirmation Oral Exam

Friday, May 3 at 6:30pm

Confirmation Sunday

May 5

Mother's Day

May 12

Preschool Graduation

Thursday, May 16, 6:30pm

High School Senior Recognition

May 19, 8:15

Preschool Sunday

May 19, 10:45am

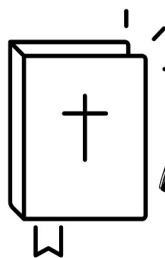
Preschool & KTT Summer

Programs begin

June 3

Theme for 2024: "Spreading the Gospel of God's Grace"

Verse for 2024: "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)



Notes from Miss Skylar



St. Paul's Family,

But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.
Colossians 1:23

Even though Easter Day has passed the Easter celebration never ends because the gift we received from Jesus defeating death and rising again is eternal. We should stand firmly in this gift that was given to us and like Paul we should go out and proclaim it to every one so they too can stand firm in the gift.

Ways you can stand firm is by joining us in our Bible Reading Challenge which provides daily Bible readings, the theme for May is Entrenched in the Gospel. These verses will really help us to stand firm in God's love and grace.

We are also looking forward to Vacation Bible School happening June 24-28. This is a great time for us to proclaim the Gospel to so many children and we need your help in doing so. You can volunteer throughout the week, provide the needed donations, and simply pray that the children we get to serve hear and receive the wonderful news that Jesus loves them so much He died on the cross to take away all of their sins and defeated death and came back to life three days later on Easter!

God's Blessings,

Skylar Smith, DCE



You're Invited!

June 24th-28th, 2024 | 9-12pm

Scan to register today!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



High School Senior Recognition

Join us Sunday, May 19th, at 8:15am Traditional Service as we celebrate our High School Seniors graduating this year! Please submit pictures of your graduating senior to Skylar for a special presentation to be shown at both services! If you have any questions, contact Skylar or Heather Asher.

THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

May 11th | Baseball Game

To receive information and reminders text "@yaanchor" to 81010

Enduring Faith

May Sunday School Lessons

- 5/5 - Lost-and-Found Wonders: Jesus Seeks the Lost
- 5/12 - The Seeing Sign: Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind
- 5/19 - A Resurrection Sign: Jesus Raises Lazarus
- 5/26 - All Together in the ARC

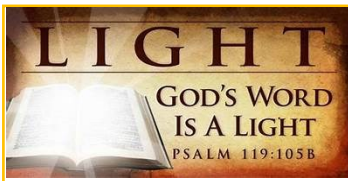
Bible Reading Challenge

May - Entrenched in the Gospel

Join our 2024 Bible Reading Challenge! These daily readings look at verses that focus on a different theme every month. These verses may only take a few seconds to read, but we encourage you to read them multiple times throughout the day and spend time in prayer with God over the verses. We also encourage you, if you have the time, to READ MORE! These verses are a starting point!

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Day 1: Isaiah 40:12 | Day 17: 1 Peter 3:18 |
| Day 2: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 | Day 18: Romans 5:7-8 |
| Day 3: 1 Timothy 6:17 | Day 19: John 3:16 |
| Day 4: James 1:17 | Day 20: Romans 3:32 |
| Day 5: Acts 17:28 | Day 21: John 15:12-14 |
| Day 6: Psalm 96:3-8 | Day 22: Acts 13:38-39 |
| Day 7: Romans 1:22-23, 25 | Day 23: Acts 5:31 |
| Day 8: Romans 3:23 | Day 24: Romans 10:9-14 |
| Day 9: Colossians 3:5 | Day 25: Col. 2:13, Ps. 103:12 |
| Day 10: Matthew 5:27 | Day 26: Eph. 1:5, Jn. 1:12 |
| Day 11: Romans 6:23 | Day 27: Romans 8 |
| Day 12: Revelation 21:8 | Day 28: Romans 5:1-5, 20 |
| Day 13: James 2:10 | Day 29: Luke 15:20-24 |
| Day 14: Titus 3:3 | Day 30: Hebrews 12:5-9, 10 |
| Day 15: Romans 5:6 | Day 31: Romans 8:31 |
| Day 16: Ephesians 1:13 | |

You can pick up a monthly bookmark at church, like our Church Facebook page to get the daily reading (and be sure to Like and Share the reading for the day so that your friends can see them too!), or text "@stpaulsbrc" to 81010 to get text message reminders.

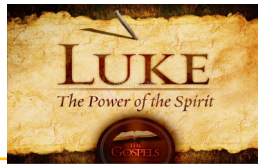


Here are several studies along with our 2023 Bible Reading Challenge on page 2 to help us be in His Word and in His light!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

10:30-11:30 am in Room 316

Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Skylar!



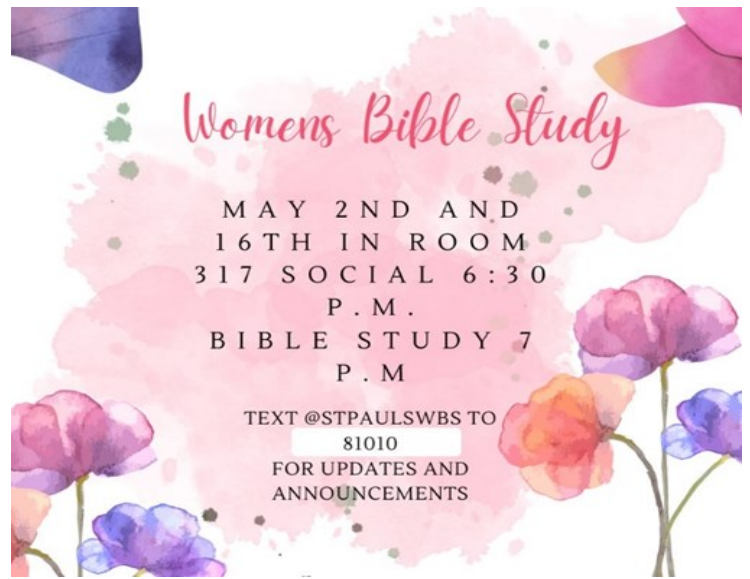
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS A STUDY OF BOOK OF REVELATION



On Wednesday nights from 6-7 pm, in Room 317 (office wing) we are discussing the Book of Revelation. Although seen as being frightening, John's Revelation was written to comfort and assure Christians that, while the world is horrible and cruel (especially to Christians) indeed, believers triumph at the end of this life by living forever in the beauty and peace and joy of heaven. Our class is led by member Mike Widmar and will be using a study prepared by another member, Gary Nagy (Pastor Emeritus), who is also a member of the class.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark

Join us on Sunday mornings starting at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Room for a study on the Gospel of Mark to answer such foundational questions about the Christian faith as: Who is this Jesus? What does He expect of me? Is suffering a normal part of the Christian life? And what will encourage and strengthen my trust in Jesus? These questions are not born of a lack of faith but serve to strengthen and stabilize our relationship with the Savior. Join us, and open your heart and mind as Mark's Gospel reveals what it means to follow Jesus.



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY, ROOM 317

We are studying from the LCMS Discipleship Bible study series. The purpose of this series is to help Christians dig into Scripture to explore some of the primary teachings of Christ Jesus. That's how disciples are made—by the power of His Word.

The 4 sessions in *ASK, SEEK, KNOCK: Take It to the Lord in Prayer, are on: The Power to Pray, Trusting His Answer, Praying with One Will, and Your Prayers Matter*. Materials provided.



125th Anniversary Cross

St. Paul's congregation has been worshipping our Lord and Savior for 125 years, eternally grateful for Jesus' triumph over the cross for our salvation.

This cedar cross was erected on March 18 and dedicated on March 24 to the glory of God to proclaim

henceforth Christ's victory over death and the cross, that He is alive, and He desires all to come to know Him.



Kairos Network Missional Program: The Missionary Pathway

What is the Missionary Pathway? The Kairos Missionary Pathway is about releasing everyday believers to plant the gospel and make disciples in the places they live, work, learn and play. In this 8-session training we will walk you through the tools you need to be an everyday missionary in the places you are already going.

How does it work?

The video at <https://thekairosnetwork.com/> will share the "why" and the "how" behind the Kairos Network missionary pathway. If you sign up for the training join in with a community of people in the Southern District LCMS who are in the training as well by connecting with a cohort. This will give you the support of a community of people who are learning how to live on mission where they live, work, learn and play.

Here are the next Missionary Pathway Partner Cohort link and dates [https://thekairosnetwork-thinkific.com/courses/2024partnercohort3](https://thekairosnetwork.thinkific.com/courses/2024partnercohort3)

2024 Partner Cohort 3

Session 03 - May 14 - 2:pm

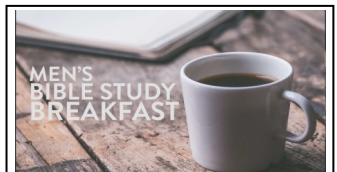
Session 04 - May 28 - 2pm

Session 05 - June 11 - 2pm

Session 06 - June 25 - 2pm

Session 07 - July 9 - 2pm

Session 08 - July 16 - 2pm



Men's Breakfast Bible Study


Watch your email for the

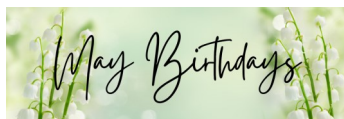
Adult Confirmation Class Wednesdays at 8pm

In-person and by Zoom
Talk to Pastor for more information

May 2024

† denotes Holy Communion celebrated during Worship Church Nursery 8:00am - Noon on Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
28 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Voters Meeting 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	29 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	30 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting	1 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	2 Preschool Moms & Muffins 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	3 6:30pm Confirmation Oral Exam	4
5 Confirmation Sunday 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	6 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 10:00am LWML Meeting (mingle 9:30-10:00) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	7 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting	8 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	9 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	10	11 1:00pm KTT "Be U" Event Young Adult Baseball Game
12 Mother's Day 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	13 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	14 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 6:00pm Education Team	15 Newsletter deadline 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	16 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm PS Graduation 6:30pm Women's Bible study	17	18
19 Pentecost Sunday 8:15am Graduation Celebration 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship†/ Preschool Sunday 5:00pm HS Youth Night	20 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-Th)	21 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Preschool Board 7:00pm Vestry	22 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	23 PS Fun Day - last day 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	24	25 1-5pm Youth Basketball Tournament
26 Trinity Sunday 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	27 Campus Closed 	28 Church Office Closed 7:00am PS Ext Care (Tu-F) 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 6:30pm Elders meeting	29 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	30 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	31	1



May 1 Michael Holway
 May 1 Georgette Becerra
 May 2 Dawn Owczarzak
 May 5 Patty Paradise Pace
 May 7 Mackenzie Rowland
 May 8 Tom Pfaff
 May 9 Nancy Fortune
 May 9 Marion Klingeberger
 May 12 Jason Duffey
 May 12 Jake Morgan
 May 13 Brennam Kruger
 May 14 Helga Daniel
 May 15 Carol Dubbs
 May 15 Jasmine Franco
 May 16 Linda Hyde
 May 17 Celia Faller

God's Blessings on your Special Day!

May 18 Carol Mueller
 May 20 Steven Linley
 May 20 Diane Pitts
 May 21 Naomi Rodgers
 May 23 Roberta Graham
 May 23 Ryan Reece
 May 23 Cooper Lawrence
 May 25 Bob Sullivant
 May 25 Grant Morgan
 May 26 Sophia Smitherman
 May 26 Jessica Staudt
 May 27 Fiona McNana
 May 27 Peggy Pfaff
 May 31 Ty Asher
 May 31 Doug Hamilton



May 5 Ronnie & Faye Atkins
 May 10 Kris & Laura Frasher Tuttle
 May 11 Lanny & Mary Yocom
 May 14 Gary & Katherine Plunkett
 May 16 Jimmy & Mitzi Reed
 May 20 Steve & Babette O'Shea
 May 22 Ron & Margo Switzer
 May 23 John & Bonnie Mann
 May 29 Pastor & Erin Kretschmar
 May 29 Jake & Daniela Morgan



Save The Date!
 June 24-28, 2024

Serving the Lord in Worship this Month at St. Paul's

		May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Elders	8:15am	Joseph Woodbury	Bill Darwin	Mitchell Whiteside	Mike Johnson
Ushers	8:15am	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Mitchell Whiteside Mike Widmar	Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Mike Ater Bob Seibert Mike Johnson	Graham Peebles Michael Kimmett Mathew Kimmett
Acolytes	8:15am	Oliver	Ben	Katelyn	Emma
A/V Techs	8:15am	Bob Sullivant	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Rich Maschke
Readers	8:15am	Jeff Pittman	open	Nancy Neuendorf	Luke Frasher
Sanctuary Flowers		Peebles	Hyde	Henderson	Peebles
Altar Guild for May: Belinda Campbell, Pete Alvis		Counters for May: Rebecca Mitchell, Becky Ballentine			
Elders	10:45am	Gary Nagy	Tim Herfurth	Roy Weiland	Tim Herfurth
Host families	10:45am	Atkins family	Ballentine family	Burrell family	Herfurth family
A/V Techs	10:45am	Rick & Carol Morgan	James Gilchrist	Mike Ringers	Tim Herfurth

CHOIR PRACTICE
New members welcome!
We will resume in
September
For more info contact
Mary Morgan



Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Will resume in September

**Ushers
Needed**

Are you willing to serve?
We are in need of two
ushers for the 8:15am
service. Please see Tim
Nave if you can help.

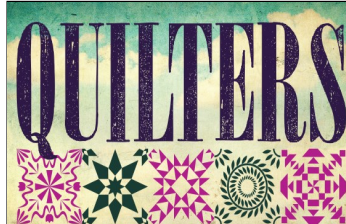


High School Youth Yard Sale a Huge Success!



Over \$800
was raised to
help the Youth
attend the
upcoming
National
Youth
Gathering.

Thanks to all
who donated
to this fundraiser! We appreciate **YOU!**



St Paul's Quilters meet in
Room 317 each Wednesday at
10am. Join us!

For more information contact
Pete Alvis at 256.616.1774.



Another
year of
Wednesday
Night
FaithLinks
Meals has
concluded.

We wish to say a great big
THANK YOU to the
following groups for
cooking and serving:
Friends, Elders, Quilters
and Fellowship Team,
LWML, KTT, the Disciples,
Preschool, the Choir and
Handbells, Education
Team, Altar Guild, Ushers,
Crosslife Hosts, the
Trustees, and the Bosco &
Nicholson Families.

Many thanks also to Linda
Hyde for calling and
reminding the teams when
it is their turn.

These acts of service to
those who come eat on
Wednesday nights are
greatly appreciated!



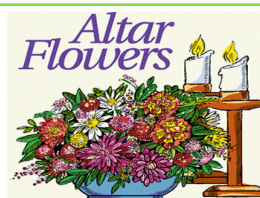
2024 Year-to-Date Average Attendance
In-church attendees 140
Facebook sign-ins 14



Current Loan Balance: **\$216,499**
Endowment Fund Balance: **\$14,419**

Financial Plan Activity thru March 31, 2024

YTD FirstFruits Giving: **\$105,516** **PLAN: \$112,500**
YTD Total Expenses: **- \$123,476** **PLAN: \$123,572**
Plan Activity thru March - **\$ 17,960**



Flower Calendar for 2024 is
up in the breezeway.
Sign up early for your
special day!



**Rite of Confirmation
for St. Paul's 2024
Confirmands**

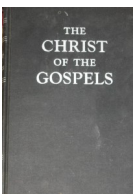
Sunday, May 5 at 8:15am Worship in the Sanctuary

Please keep our 2024 Confirmands in your prayers

**Owen Blaske
Katelyn Kimmett
Emma Nave**

God's Blessings on our Confirmands!

New arrival. This book was donated to the glory of God by Walter Hartley in loving memory of his wife, Faye.



"The Christ of the Gospels" by William Beck (an LCMS pastor who translated the Bible--"God's Word to the Nations Translation"), is an arrangement of the Gospels in chronological order. For instance, Beck took all of the appearances of Jesus on Easter and put them in a timeline of events (which helps with some of the confusion about who saw Jesus when).

We are community

As with every community, the church is made up of different kinds of people, who have different backgrounds and stories, who differ in politics, and are diverse in many other ways. While we may not agree with their point of view, we put aside our judgments and opinions and accept them as they accept us: one together in Christ. "If we walk in the light [of the Gospel of Christ-the forgiveness of sin] as Jesus is in the light, we have fellowship fellowship (are a community) with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Celia Gilchrist
Jack Blaske



Are now meeting in the
Parlor
every Thursday at 11am.
Bring a friend!

Help wanted..... if you knit or crochet - we need you!

St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for new members to help create shawls, prayer squares, and beanies (for those taking chemo). The group has patterns and also plenty of yarn.

For more info contact Mary Kay Hodges at 256.244.4154.

IN MEMORY
DONNA G. SMITH
1950 - 2020

St Paul's Lutheran Women's Missionary League is supporting The Cross of North Alabama by helping to sell

-- Legacy Bricks --

The money raised from brick sales will benefit both The Cross of North Alabama Project as well as various St Paul's LWML projects.

Go online to: www.thecrossofnorthalabama.com
scroll down to order your brick today! 4x8 brick with 3-lines is \$150; 8x8 brick with 6-lines is \$400 (up to 20 characters per line). After you place your order, please contact Dee Livingston at 256-345-3179 and or Jim Verhine at 256-679-3009. Payments by



Outreach Project

Thank you to everyone who contributes and prays for the visitors to our Blessing Box!

Please help to keep the Blessing Box stocked by placing non-perishable items in the Blessing Box or in the collection box under the Portico at the Sanctuary entrance.

We are blessing our neighbors - one can at a time!



Registration for KTT Summer Program now open.

For more information contact Charlotte at 256-426-7734

Do you have one hour a week to spare?

Volunteer driver needed for St. Paul's route on Wednesday and Thursday. One hour once or twice a week depending on day/days chosen, 2:15-3:15 start to finish. Must be able to drive a 15 passenger van.

Contact Charlotte for details at 256-426-7734.



The St. Paul Legacy Endowment Fund is important for the financial future of the ministries at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Want to learn more about giving to the St. Paul Legacy Endowment Fund? The Endowment Team will be having an Endowment Education meeting this September. More information to come!

St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool 2023-2024



May is sponsored by the numbers 9 and 10 and the color Black.

This month the children will learn about habitats. We will review our shapes and our letters. Our Bible stories and study will be God Cares for the Birds and Flowers, Jonah and the Big Fish, and Jesus Blesses the Children.



Join us Monday, May 2nd from 7:00-9:30 for Moms & Muffins - **The congregation is invited!**



Preschool graduation will be Thursday, May 16th at 6:30 p.m.
The congregation is invited!



Preschool Sunday will be Sunday, May 19th at 10:45 a.m. There will be a cake reception following service.



Fun Day/Last day of the regular preschool year will be Thursday, May 23rd.

Extended Care only will meet May 24, 28-31.



The Preschool will be closed Monday, May 27th on observance of Memorial Day.

Summer Preschool with Extended Care begins Monday, June 3rd.



For more info and pictures of activities, please visit
www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec.Preschool

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

October 8, 2023

**Choir and Organists at St. Paul's:
A Tentative History**

"God has preached the Gospel through music"

Martin Luther

Part One: Organists and Organs

Although organists and organs are crucial components of worship services, the various anniversary booklets produced have said little or nothing about the organists and choirs. This essay is a tentative compilation of bits of information found in previous anniversary booklets, church records, and the memories of long-term members of the congregation.

According to one of the booklets, the first organist that we have a record of was Ann-Clare Carlisle Berry who played the organ from 1929 until her death in 1969, an impressive forty years. The records of St. Paul's include a collection of church bulletins from 1061 to 1979. Fortunately, some of the ones from the 1960s listed organists and choir directors. In the bulletins, Mrs. Berry is listed as Mrs. E. Y. Berry. At that time, women were referred to by their husband's name with a Mrs. in front. Mrs. Berry shared the duties of being organist with Charles Ogle and Mr. K. R. Erikson.

1961 was the year that the congregation voted to have two morning services—8:15 and 10:45. As a result, one organist would play for the 8:15 service and another would place for the 10:45 service. Ogle, Erikson, and Berry continued sharing the duties as the organist. On 20 August, a new organist appeared and Terrill Wenzel played the organ while he was on vacation from attending college in Texas. Over the years, he would continue to play the organ as needed. During 1962, Ogle, Berry, and Erikson took turns playing the organ while during 1963 only Erikson served as organist. Things were more crowded in 1964. Again, Erikson and Berry shared playing the organ but in October they were joined by Karl Oliver. In 1965 Carl Oliver played the 8:15 service and Mrs. Berry played at 10:45. Mrs. Carl Oliver joined her husband in playing the organ in September. During the same time period, Terrill Wenzel, now with the title of Dr., would also play the organ on occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver continued to share playing the organ at 8:15 while Mrs. Berry played at 10:45. She continued to play for that service during 1967. Mr. Oliver began 1967 as the

organist for the 8:15 service but on 26 February Miss Diane Black took his place as organist for 8:15 and continued to be the organist for that service through most of 1969. Mrs. Berry continued to play for the 10:45 service through 1968 until 9 February 1969. She died that year. Miss Perrin Morin took Mrs. Berry's place at 10:15 beginning 16 February. Dr. Wenzel and Miss Black continued to fill-in as organist on occasion. During the second half of 1969 and early 1970, the duties of organist were shared by Mrs. Eugene Story, Dr. Wenzell, Mrs. Lanny Yocum, and Mrs. T. Livingston.

At that point, there is a gap in organist history. On 15 February 1970, the church bulletins stopped listing the organists. In 1986, Beverly Thatcher became the assistant organist to the then-current organist Agnes Johnson. What we don't know is when Agnes Johnson started as the organist, nor do we have a record of when Beverly became the sole organist. Beverly would go on to play the organ for twenty-nine years until 21 May 2015, with Peggy Webb, Patricia Scheler, and Ramona Landers playing on occasion from 2006-2008; Paul Colba played frequently from 2009-2016, sharing regular time on the bench with Beverly her last two years. Mark Blaske began playing in 2014 and became the organist in 2015 when Beverly Thatcher retired and in which position he continues to provide beautiful music.

The organs also have their own history. What we know is that in 1972 the Organ Fund established. As a result, a new organ was purchased. On 19 January 1975, the Allen Computer Organ was dedicated. It was purchased with money from the Memorial Fund and was dedicated to the Glory of God and in moving memory of the departed. The current organ was purchased with a Memorial gift in 2007 when the Sanctuary was remodeled.

If anyone has additions or corrections regarding this history, please contact Ron Fritze at rfritze@wowway.com or 256 497 2413. Any corrections or new information will be gratefully accepted. Also if you are interested in joining the choir, new members are very, very welcome. And it is good fellowship too!!! Stay tuned for what we know about the history of the choir next month.



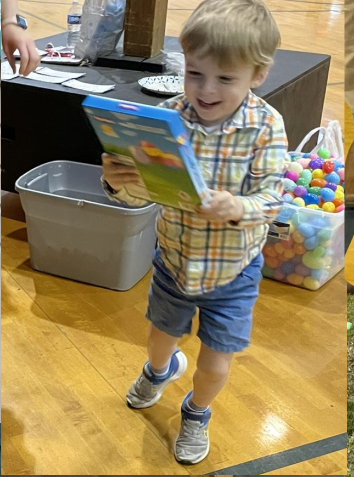
He is Risen! Hallelujah! He is Risen Indeed!



The resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was celebrated at St. Paul's with Traditional Easter Worship and Holy Communion where almost 300 were in attendance. An Easter breakfast hosted by the Elders provided a time of fellowship, and the traditional Easter Egg Hunt for the children followed.

The newsletter staff thanks those who contributed pictures and invites the submission of pictures for all ministry and fellowship activities of the congregation. You might just find yourself in the newsletter!





St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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www.StPaulsDec.com
www.Facebook.com/StPaulsDec



We have had a family of bluebirds in the Prayer Garden this spring!



2024 VBS



Save The Date!

June 24-28, 2024



We have transitioned to a new 1Call service called Call Multiplier

The calls you receive are from (256) 353-8759 on your Caller ID and identified as "St. Paul's Lutheran Church."

If you want to replay a message, simply call (877) 357-3575 and it will play the last message sent!

Please let the Church Office know if you would like to receive our 1Call announcements and are currently not signed up.



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