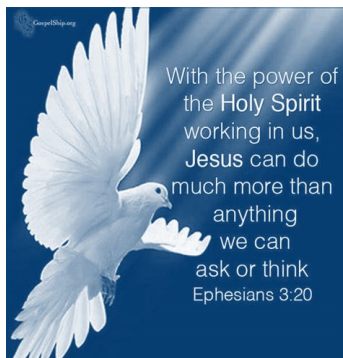


St. Paul's Epistle

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

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



Friends in Christ,

"April showers bring May flowers." We all know the saying, and in the month of April the Lord certainly showered down upon us His blessings! The saying is typically understood in terms of physical rain, but in my opinion it also applies to all that God blessed us with in April and the resulting "growth" we see now this month.

In April we had Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Now, in the month of May, as we continue in the Easter season, we reflect upon the Ascension of our Savior. And finally, we have Pentecost Sunday at the end of the month. At the beginning of May, we start with Confirmation Sunday, we celebrate God's gift of mothers on the second Sunday, and we will ask for God's blessing upon our graduating twelfth graders on the third Sunday and graduating preschool PreK4 students on the third Wednesday.

The season of Easter is a time to reflect on, and give thanks for, the new and unending resurrection life we have in Christ Jesus. And this month, with all of our special emphases, we certainly see it. We praise the Lord for His work in our lives through Word and Sacrament, the nurturing support of family, and the temporal blessings of education in particular. We remember that Christ ascended into heaven, sitting now at the right hand of the Father, ruling over all creation. And our Savior then sent to us the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost that we might be empowered to live faithfully as His followers in the world, bringing honor to Him daily.

In Acts chapter 2 we read, "But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh" (Acts 2:16-17). The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in the day of Pentecost, but it also continues today. Each time God's people gather together, as the Word of God goes forth, the Lord sends His Holy Spirit. Hearing and reading God's Word, the Holy Spirit comes upon our Confirmands and their families. The Holy Spirit blesses mothers that spend time in the Word and go to our Savior in prayer. The Holy Spirit enlivens our youth as they look in faith to Christ Jesus. And the Holy Spirit renews, guides, and uses each of us as we receive the means of grace, remembering that our ascended Savior helps us in midst of all that we face, strengthening us that we might bring honor to Him.

Jesus said in John 15, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (John 15:7-13).

Christ our Risen Savior has gone into heaven. He will come back again one day, but now at this time He has sent the Holy Spirit to guide us in all truth. And our Savior declared in John 14, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17). So praise God that, incredibly, the Holy Spirit actually dwells within us who trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, believing that He died on the cross for our sins to bring us forgiveness and rose from the dead. Therefore, may the peace of our Risen Lord be with you always!

In Christ our Savior,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

May 2023

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 7, 21

Staffed Nursery 8am until noon

Bible Study

Adult Bible Study
Heroes of the Bible
Sundays 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 9:45am

Book of Matthew Bible Study
Wednesdays 10:30

Gospel of Luke Bible Study
Wednesdays 6:15pm

Looking Ahead

VBS Volunteer Meeting
Sunday, April 30 at 12noon

Confirmation Oral Exam
May 5

Confirmation Sunday
May 7

Mother's Day
May 14

Preschool Graduation
May 17 6:30pm

HS Graduation Recognition
May 21

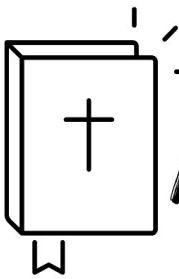
Memorial Day—Campus closed
May 29

2023 Theme

"Through the years,
the Lord is faithful!"

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures
forever, and his faithfulness
to all generations.





Notes from Miss Skylar



St. Paul's Family,

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1 NIV

As April comes to an end and May begins, I remember the saying, "April Showers bring May Flowers." This saying is the perfect reminder of how despite all the bad things happening all around us or to us there is hope; there is ALWAYS hope. We just celebrated one of the best days in our church year, Easter, which reminds us of the hope we have that no matter what happens to us we know our Redeemer lives and we will join Him in heaven because of His sacrifice on the cross to take away all of our sins.

We have all experienced these seasonal showers that have surrounded us with darkness, brokenness, and loneliness. It's during this time we have to be extra vigilant in seeing the blessings happening during this season and looking ahead to see how God will use us through this season to bless others.

Ezekiel 34:26 says, "I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing." Just like this verse, "April showers bring May flowers" is a reminder that even the bad seasons of our lives, in this case the heavy rains of April, can bring such amazing blessings — even an abundance of flowers in May.

I want to challenge you this month to really focus on your blessings. Every morning when you wake up make sure to thank God for a new day to learn more about Him and to show you how you can serve and love others and remind them that "April Showers bring May Flowers."

God's Blessings,

Skylar Smith, DCE



Vacation Bible School

June 19th - 23rd, 2023

Register Online at stpaulsdec.com/vbs



High School Senior Recognition

Join us Sunday, May 21st, at both services as we celebrate our High School Seniors graduating this year! Please submit pictures of your graduating senior to Skylar to for a special presentation to be shown at both services!

If you have any questions you can contact Skylar or Heather Asher!

THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

Saturday, May 20th | 6:30pm

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

Enduring Faith

April Sunday School Lessons

- 5/7 - The Idle Idol: The Golden Calf
- 5/14 - A Tent for God: God with His People
- 5/21 - The Fall-Short Report: The Twelve Spies
- 5/28 - Memorial Weekend

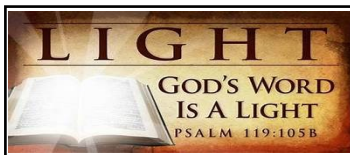
Bible Reading Challenge

May - Living Proof

Join our 2023 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: Romans 12:1-2 | Day 17: Galatians 5:16-18 |
| Day 2: Romans 12:9-10 | Day 18: Galatians 5:19-26 |
| Day 3: Romans 12:11-13 | Day 19: Galatians 6:1-5 |
| Day 4: Romans 12:14 | Day 20: Galatians 6:6-8 |
| Day 5: Romans 12:15-17 | Day 21: Galatians 6:9-10 |
| Day 6: Romans 12:18 | Day 22: Ephesians 4:1-6 |
| Day 7: Romans 12:19-20 | Day 23: Ephesians 4:20-24 |
| Day 8: Romans 12:21 | Day 24: Ephesians 4:25-28 |
| Day 9: Romans 13:8-10 | Day 25: Ephesians 4:29-32 |
| Day 10: Romans 13:11-14 | Day 26: Ephesians 5:1-2 |
| Day 11: Romans 14:13 | Day 27: Ephesians 5:3-5 |
| Day 12: Romans 15:1-6 | Day 28: Colossians 3:1-3 |
| Day 13: Romans 15:7-13 | Day 29: Colossians 3:5-11 |
| Day 14: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 | Day 30: Colossians 3:12-14 |
| Day 15: 1 Cor. 13:4-7 | Day 31: Colossians 3:15-17 |
| Day 16: 1 Cor. 15:58 | |

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!

The Gospel of Matthew



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Wednesday nights beginning at 6:15 pm in Room 317. Please join us!



Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:30 am Room 317

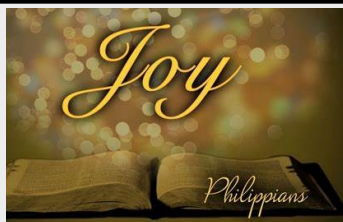
Join us for a interesting and lively discussions



New Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study – *Philippians: Embracing Joy*

Do you need a shot of joy or a boost of holy optimism in your life? If so, you will be encouraged by Paul's emotional words to the Philippians.

Even though the apostle was writing from a jail cell, he could still speak of the joy, purpose, and belonging that he had found in Christ. In this short letter, he reveals how you can likewise fix your eyes on Jesus in spite of your circumstances and know that you can do all things through Christ because the tomb is empty! Please join Pastor Kretzschmar on Sunday mornings starting at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Room.



Adult Confirmation Class
Wednesdays at 8pm
In person and by Zoom
Talk to Pastor for more info



Rite of Confirmation for St. Paul's 2022 Confirmands

Sunday, May 7 at 8:15am Worship in the Sanctuary

Please keep our 2023 Confirmands in your prayers

**Charlotte Hasse
Brennam Kruger**

God's Blessings on our Confirmands!

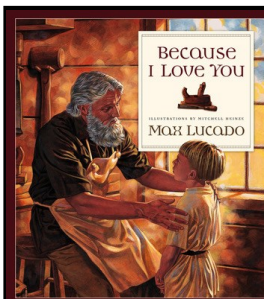


St Paul's Quilters meet in Room 317 each Wednesday at 10am. Join us!
For more information contact Helga Daniel.



Save the Date!
CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

St Paul's Lutheran Church
Celebrating 125 Years
Sunday, October 8, 2023



COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY

In the Library!

"Because I Love You" is a story written for children ages 5-9. A loving man builds a safe place for children to live, but leaves a hole in the wall that surrounds them because if the children stay it is because they want to, not because they have to. This reminded me of Joshua saying, "Choose this day whom you will serve, but a for me and my house we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). One boy does leave, but can't find the hole to get back in. He asks, "Does the man love me enough to come and find me?" This is about Jesus, of course, who "came to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). This is a great book to share important Bible truths to your children.

-Gary Nagy



Come join the Handbell Choir
Wednesdays at 6:00pm
in the choir loft.
May 3




Come join the choir
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
in the choir loft.
May 3
New members welcome!
For more info contact
Mary Morgan

May 2023

† denotes Holy Communion celebrated during Worship

Church Nursery 8:00am - Noon on Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
30 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship 12:00pm VBS volunteer meeting	1 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)	2 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 12:00pm Choir rehearsal	3 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Adult Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:15pm Praise band	4 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	5 6:30pm Confirmation Oral Exam	6
7 8:15am Confirmation Sunday 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 1:30pm Porch Visits by Elders 5:00pm HS Youth Night	8 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	9 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education meeting 7:00pm Vestry meeting	10 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Adult Bible study 7:15pm Praise band	11 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	12	13 2:00pm KTT "Be U" event
14 Mother's Day 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	15 Newsletter deadline 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	16 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Preschool Board meeting 7:30pm Fellowship Board meeting	17 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Adult Bible study 6:30pm PS graduation 7:15pm Praise band	18 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	19	20 6:30pm Young Adult Event
21 HS Graduates Recognition - both services 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	22 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-W)	23 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting	24 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Adult Bible study 7:15pm Praise band	25 9:00am PS Last Day Fun Day 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:30pm KTT Afterschool (T-F)	26 PS Extended Care only	27
28 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	29 Memorial Day campus closed 	30 7:00am PS Ext Care (Tu-F) 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting	31 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Adult Bible study 7:15pm Praise band	1 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	2 10:00am Sanctuary use	3



- May 1 Michael Holway
- May 1 Georgette Becerra
- May 2 Dawn Owczarzak
- May 2 Alyssa Staudt
- May 5 Patty Paradise Pace
- May 6 Kay Stoudnour
- 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
- May 18 Carol Mueller
- May 19 Emma Holbrook
- 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 McNa
- May 27 Peggy Pfaff
- May 31 Ty Asher
- May 31 Doug Hamilton



Called Home to Heaven
Sandra Davis
March 11, 2023



Welcome Baby Girls

Evelyn and Carolyn Faulkner
born Easter Sunday to
Amanda Ballentine Faulkner.

God's Blessings on your Special Day!

- May 2 Mike & Susan Staudt
- May 5 Ronnie & Faye Atkins
- May 9 Bo & Marian Paradise
- May 10 Kris & Laura Frasher Tuttle
- May 11 Lanny & Mary Yocom
- May 14 Katherine & Gary Plunkett
- May 16 Jimmy & Mitzi Reed
- May 20 Steve & Babette O'Shea
- May 23 John & Bonnie Mann
- May 29 Pastor & Erin Kretzschmar
- May 29 Jake & Daniela Morgan



Altar Flowers

The Flower Calendar for 2023 is up in the breezeway. Sign up early for your special day!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meet us in the Parlor every Thursday at 11am. Bring a friend!



STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

Vacation Bible School
June 19th - 23rd, 2023
Register Online at stpaulsdec.com/vbs

Call Skylar to volunteer!

Volunteer Meeting for more info is Sunday, April 30 at Noon!

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

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Elders 8:15am	Tim Nave	Bill Darwin	Joseph Woodbury	Mickey Whiteside
Ushers 8:15am	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Mickey Whiteside Mike Widmar	Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Ron Neuendorf Mike Ater Bob Seibert	Graham Peebles James Thrasher Michael Kimmett Mathew Kimmett
Acolytes 8:15am	Emma	Katelyn	Owen	Emma
A/V Techs 8:15am	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Rick Maschke	Bob Sullivant
Readers 8:15am	Jeff Pittman	Rhonda Reece	Gary Nagy	Luke Frasher
Sanctuary Flowers	open	James & Carol Henderson	Linda Hyde	Penny Peebles

Altar Guild for May: Belinda Campbell & Pete Alvis

Counters for May: Rebecca Mitchell & Becky Ballentine

Elders 10:45am	Gary Nagy	Tim Herfurth	Ron Fritze	Roy Weiland
Host families 10:45am	Burrell family	Herfurth family	McRae family	Morgan family
A/V Techs 10:45am	Rick & Carol Morgan	James Gilchrist	Mike Ringers	Tim Herfurth



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.



2023 Year-to-Date Average Attendance

In-church attendees 121
Facebook sign-ins 14



Current Loan

Balance: \$234,207

Financial Plan Activity thru March 31, 2023

YTD FirstFruits Giving: \$ 116,884 **PLAN: \$ 112,500**

YTD Total Expenses: - \$ 208,214 **PLAN: \$ 212,088**

Plan Activity thru March + \$ 8,034 Great start to 2023!!!

THANKS TO ALL for faithful giving in-person and online.

Those giving by mail are GREATLY ENCOURAGED to give online;

Sending checks in the mail is the least safe way to donate.

Currently, 35% of our Givers give safely online; to join them,

- go to the [website](#),
- download the Mobile app,
- snap the QR code, or
- contact the Church Office for a paper authorization form.

Online Giving is greatly encouraged!



VANCO



Secure Giving at www.StPaulsDec.com



Vanco Mobile app on [Google Play](#) or in the [App Store](#)

Are YOU Receiving CALLS from St PAUL's?



You will now see calls from the number

(855) 248-7295

Be sure to "create a new contact" with the **(855) 248-7295**

number and name it "St Paul's Calls" or something you will recognize!

--- EVERYONE ---

Customize your Communication Preferences by clicking on:

<https://stpaulsdec.360members.com/communications/access-preferences>

Follow the instructions to choose your preferences;

If you have any questions, please email the Church Office!

Kody Asher
Sam Hellebrand
Sara Jones
Hala Parker
Amber Parson
Sophia Smitherman
Jessica Staudt



CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

St. Paul's is Celebrating its

125th Anniversary

October 8, 2023

In preparation, Ron Fritze and Beth Hornish are leading us through our history in preparation for this grand celebration. Anyone wishing to participate in its planning may contact Craig Baker!

School Days, School Days

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. And catechism and Bible. Since its organization, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has always put an emphasis on educating their children, which is why so many LC-MS congregations have preschools, grammar schools, middle schools, and high schools and is the 2nd largest school system in the world today. St. Paul's congregation was no exception.

The twenty-five Charter Members who organized St. Paul's on October 9, 1898, also placed a high priority on the education of their children. Shortly after they organized, the congregation started a Sunday School. In 1947 the first Vacation Bible School was held. Both of these schools continue to this day.

Three months after its organizational meeting, on January 29, 1899, the congregation approved the opening of a parochial day school and directed the Text Book Committee, which served as the School Board, to purchase textbooks for the school. The Bible History and the Catechetical texts were to be in the German language, and the books for the three R's were to be in English.

Tuition for members of St. Paul's was \$.25 per month, and non-members of the congregation were asked to pay \$.75 per month.

Pastor William Hussmann, St. Paul's first pastor, served as the principal and teacher of this one-room school. The small school grew very quickly in those early years, so that by the end of 1900, with so many non-members enrolled, the school was as large as the membership roll of the congregation.

At the July 14, 1901 Voters Meeting, the Text Book Committee presented a plan for St. Paul's to build a school of its own. The men of the church agreed to build a school with the building being twenty feet wide and thirty feet long. The dedication of their school building occurred on September 29, 1901.

In the years the school was in operation, St. Paul's experienced four changes in pastors. Attendance at the school varied depending upon the support of the pastors. In a letter written in 1965 for the church's 75th Anniversary, Rev. Hans Reuter (1908-1911), mentions that he taught at St. Paul's parochial school while he was pastor. At that time the school had 15 – 20 students. The parochial day school closed twenty years after its founding.

At the beginning of the 1957-1958 school year, St. Paul's opened a kindergarten. Mrs. Annie Laurie Seagle was its teacher. Mrs. Seagle was originally from North Carolina and attended Lenoir Rhyne College. Before coming to Decatur, she taught in a Lutheran school. After her husband died, Mrs. Seagle and her son, Max, moved to Decatur to be close to her daughter and son-in-law. Max Seagle says that his mother loved the children and teaching.

The kindergarten was held in the basement of the Sherman Street church and was open to members of the congregation and the community at large. There were 15 children in the class. Rhonda Reece remembers sitting on long wooden benches and memorizing the 23rd Psalm.

One of Mrs. Seagal's experiences with her class happened when she was taking the children on a walk and they happened across a utility worker. The man had dug a hole next to the telephone pole and was standing in the bottom of the hole. The children, being curious, naturally had to stop and see what was going on. The man looked up at the children and then at Mrs. Seagle and told her, "I wouldn't have your job for anything in the world." Mrs. Seagle found his sentiment amusing.

Rhonda Reece remembers playing on the monkey bars at recess and all of the children enthusiastically waving to the Army men (National Guard) across the street and being delighted when the men waved back. The kindergarten closed at the end of 1963-1964 school year.

In the fall of 1991, St. Paul's opened a Mother's Morning Out Program. After four years, in 1995, the program was expanded into a preschool incorporating a Christ-centered educational curriculum. The Mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool with Extended Care is to provide a quality early childhood education program guided by Christian philosophy and doctrine and acts as a mission outreach of this congregation to community.

Classes were originally held in the east wing of the campus, but were moved into a new education wing upon the completion of a Christian Life Center in the fall of 2000. In 2008, the Preschool began the rigorous national accrediting process of National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). The St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool was awarded accreditation on July 31, 2009 with continuing accreditation granted in 2019.

In the winter of 2012, recognizing a need for continued care before and after Preschool hours and on Fridays, Extended Care was offered for students needing that care. Currently the Preschool has a total of 73 students in the following classes: Toddler Class – 10, 2 year old Class – 21, 3 year old Class – 20, and PreK-4 year old Class – 22.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 tells us that we are to teach our children so that they may know the Lord. St. Paul's has been faithful to that mission for all of its 125 years.

Beth Hornish and Ron Fritze

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

St. Paul's is Celebrating its
125th Anniversary

October 8, 2023

Memories, Memories

Do you have a favorite memory of your time at St. Paul's?

Do you have favorite memories of your time at the Sherman Street church?

The Anniversary History Committee is collecting memories for the 125th Anniversary and want to include yours!

We would like to preserve these memories for the future. If you have memories that you are willing to share, please send them to Beth Hornish at emhornish@gmail.com or put them into my mailbox at the church. We will collect them and you will be able to see everyone's memories at the Anniversary celebration on October 8, 2023. Thank you for sharing!

Beth Hornish

Memories
are special moments
that tell our
Story

Attention St. Paul's members, past and present, men and women, Preschool, KTT and all groups:



As part of our 125th anniversary, we are requesting not only historical information to be provided to Ron Fritze or Beth Hornish, *we are requesting submission of your best and favorite recipes!*

Please include the name of the recipe, ingredients, directions along with your name and telephone number. Your number will not be published; it is for the cookbook/history book committee in case of questions.

Place the information in Joyce Weiland's church mailbox, mail to her at 2301 Mud Tavern Road SW, Decatur, Alabama 35603 or email to Campanula19@aol.com with subject line: St Paul's recipes. If you are home bound and need her to come to you, you may call her at 409-256-5797.

Deadline for submission is July 31 in order to have completion in time for the October 8th celebration. Information regarding presale to follow. All proceeds will go to the church.

**Celebrating Easter at St. Paul's
Christ is Risen - He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

Thanks to the families who flowered the cross for our Easter celebration, to all our worship volunteers, to the trumpeter and choir members who provided music and praise, to the Elders who provided breakfast, to our volunteers who provided candy and hid the eggs for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt, so that all the families who joined us for Worship that day would be blessed!

As viewed by our audio/visual techs, the Sanctuary resounded with hymns of Hallelujahs and songs of joy.

**Christ is Risen -
He is Risen
Indeed! Alleluia!**



St Paul's Preschool



Friends



Chapel with Ms. Skylar



Planting with Mr. Lanny



Upcoming Important Dates



Muffins with Moms

Thursday, May 4 from 7:00-9:00am.
Please join us and meet our preschool moms!

Preschool Graduation

Wednesday, May 17th at 6:30pm in the ARC
Followed by a reception. Please join us and celebrate our graduates!



Fun Day and Last Day of School



Thursday, May 25 from 9:00-12:00

We will have games and a pizza lunch. Volunteers are needed with games and serving lunch!

Extended Care Only between sessions

May 26th-June 2nd will be Extended Care only.

Summer Preschool starts June 5th.



Memorial Day Observation

We will be closed on Monday, May 29th for Memorial Day.

Easter Egg Hunt



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



Rhonda Reece, Interim Director
(256) 353-1353



Afterschool Care

Icy Does It - Again!



Special shout out to Bill and Diane Bynum for buying icies for the children who didn't bring or have money to do so. Thanks for being a blessing!

Thank you Melinda Baker and Joyce Weiland for allowing our middle school girls to help make the Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday.



April Field Trip

This month's middle school field trip was to Target. The youth chose several places to go, then voted. Who would have ever thought Target? They each had \$20 plus. Budgeting lessons and spending wisely went awry. They chose to borrow from each other rather than to put an item back. It's safe to say, this lesson will have to be repeated with a mock lesson before we go shopping again. A good time was had by all!



Financial Literacy

Charlotte Bradley, Director, KTT Inc
(256) 666-8601

For more info and pictures of activities, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/KidzTweenzTeenzInc/>

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



The Elders will focus on calling all our members who haven't been at worship recently with the goals of:

- Letting members know that we care
- Finding out how they are doing
- Gathering prayer requests
- Letting the members know about the activities going on at St. Paul's
- Encouraging members in the life of the church (worship, Bible study, fellowship, service, caring for others)
- Reaching out to the shut-ins with a devotion & communion.

Since making contact with many of our members is difficult, Pastor and the Elders will be making "porch visits" to our inactive members sharing our goals with them. The Elders will be working with Pastor and the committee planning for the celebration of SPLC's 125th anniversary.