

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

November 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the July Epistle I wrote that the St Paul's leadership team would be contacting every member at St Paul's over the next couple of months. There were a few things that we wanted to learn from these calls, such as how to better connect members in worship, bible study, and ministry. We also wanted to learn of you and your family's needs and concerns. The main thing we wanted **you** to learn from these calls was that you are valued and loved at St Paul's. We want you to be able to say "St Paul's is a place where I belong."

How did we do? Were you contacted? I know that some of you were not as of yet, and I'm sorry for that. I think everyone and everyone's opinion is valuable, and I invite you to give me a call if you did not have a chance to share what's on your mind (and heart). From those that were contacted, we received valuable input. Some of the areas that you felt were strengths to be celebrated included: children's ministry, a place to belong, excellence in worship, CrossLife & Traditional worship styles, Preschool, and the Word preached in all services. Some of the concerns that were expressed included: prefers the 10:45 traditional and SNL services, need a pastor, very little connection between services, and wants



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WITH ALL THE BOUNTY
THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD
HAS GIVEN TO YOU.

DEUTERONOMY 26:11, NRSV

more combined worship services. Several of you mentioned that you appreciated being called and others wished they were called more often. What a bounty to be celebrated!

Rationale for Current Worship Schedule Now that we have this information what do we do with it? As would be expected, the primary feedback revolved around worship – worship times, worship styles, and worship locations. Be assured, the Elders had carefully studied the options for worship when we entered the interim where we would be relying upon retired ministers as guest preachers. Based on these considerations they decided that the 8:15 traditional and 10:45 contemporary worship times best suited St Paul's needs:

- It was determined that a guest preacher would best serve our congregation if he were to:
 - ◇ be in each service for its entirety and positioned to greet the congregation at both the beginning and end of each service.
 - ◇ preach two sermons on Sunday – early and late service times
 - ◇ have a break between sermons during the Sunday School Hour and end the undesired practice of shuttling the pastor to preach during the same service time.
- It was recognized that CrossLife offers an alternative worship and music style to attendees that comprise 1/3 of the Sunday worship attendance.
- It was affirmed that St. Paul's values Children as one of our Core Values and that the 8:15 Traditional and the 10:45 CrossLife services serve more families with children.
- It was decided to suspend the concurrent Traditional late service on Sunday as well as the Saturday evening service with the consideration that the attenders of these services would have available:
 - ◇ the 8:15 service to provide for those who prefer the Traditional style of worship
 - ◇ the 10:45 CrossLife service to provide for those who prefer the later time.

Worship is at the core of why St Paul's exists as a community of believers. We will always be looking at the best ways to meet the needs of the greatest number of St Paul's members and still provide an uplifting worship experience praising Jesus as our Lord and Savior, giving Him glory, and celebrating, with thanksgiving, all His bounty.

In His Service,

Please pray for our Call Team

studying, discerning, filtering the 45 pastors' profiles submitted by District President Schultz for them to prayerfully consider.

Semi-Annual Report to the Voters Assembly

available in the Lobby and Narthex

2-Question Communication Survey

available in your email inbox, with your Giving Statement, or by the collection boxes in the Lobby and Narthex

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ONE Combined Worship**
October 30
- Fellowship Potluck Lunch**
October 30
- Voters Assembly**
October 30
- Preschool Trick-or-Treat**
October 31
- St. Paul's Holiday Bazaar & Community Health Fair**
November 4
- Middle School Gathering**
November 11-13
- InBetweeners Bunko Night**
November 12
- Boys & Girls Club Feast**
November 15
- Preschool Feast**
November 17
- Hanging of the Greens**
November 26
- Ladies' Christmas Party**
December 4
- Children's Program**
December 18
- Christmas Eve Worship**
6p & 11p
- Christmas Day Worship**
10:45 am
- New Year's Day Worship**
10:45 am



November 4
10am - 7pm

Lunch: 11am-1pm
Dinner: 5pm-7pm

Enjoy a meal and shop
St. Paul's featured vendors:
Craft Shoppe, Bake Sale,
Granny's Attic, Book Nook,
Quilters' Corner,
and the Man Stand,
as well as our many guest
vendors!

LifeSouth Bloodmobile
Flue Shots
available 10:00 - 1:00
(most insurance will cover)
FREE Blood Pressure
& Glucose checks