

CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS

**Chronology of the History of  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

*"Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them."*

*Matthew 18:20*

*And after 125 years we are still gathering.*

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|-------------------|---|
| 9 October 1898    | Meeting that founded St Paul's congregation.  |
| 29 January 1899   | First pastor called, Rev. William Gerhard Hussmann  |
| 1899              | Foundation of the Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul's Lutheran Church  |
| January 1899      | Congregation approved opening a parochial school and a Sunday School.   |
| 29 January 1899   | W. O Hussman installed as first resident pastor of St. Paul's.  |
| 6 November 1900   | Building committee of St. Paul's Church established.  |
| 6 January 1901    | Building purchase committee established.  |
| 24 March 1901     | Dedication of the congregation's first church building on Sherman Street.   |
| 14 July 1901      | Plan to build a school for St. Paul's approved.   |
| 29 September 1901 | Dedication of St. Paul's school building.   |
| 6 December 1903   | St. Paul's buys its first Christmas Tree.   |
| 1921              | St. Paul's school closes after 20 years serving the community.  |
| 1930              | St. Paul's granted membership in the LCMS.  |
| April 1937        | Ladies Aid Society changes its name to Lutheran Ladies Auxiliary.   |
| 1942              | Foundation of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML).  |
| 1943              | Foundation of a Men's Club.   |
| 1947              | First Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's.  |
| 1948              | Congregation votes to sponsor a choir.  |
| 1950              | Building Committee hires architect to design remodel of the Sherman Street Church.  |
| 1951              | St. Paul's building is turned on its foundation and remodeled.  |
| 1957              | St. Paul's starts a kindergarten.   |
| 25 June 1961      | Arrival of Pastor Ronald Reinhardt.   |
| 1961              | St. Paul's congregation votes to have two Sunday morning services.  |
| January 1962      | Church expansion committee formed.  |
| 12 April 1964     | Church expansion committee reactivated.   |
| 1964              | St. Paul's kindergarten closes.   |
| January 1965      | Formation of the Facility Needs Committee.  |
| 13 August 1967    | Ground Breaking for the new church on Carridale Street.   |
| 1968              | St. Paul's congregation moves to Carridale Street.  |
| 1968              | Organization of the official Quilters Group.  |
| 19 May 1968       | Dedication service for the new church.  |
| 1972              | Establishment of the Organ Fund.  |
| 19 January 1975   | Dedication of the Allen Computer Organ.   |
| January 1988      | Formation of the Expansion Committee for an education wing.   |
| 16 October 1988   | Congregation approves the expansion plan.   |
| 19 February 1989  | Dedication of the stained glass windows in Sanctuary.   |
| 1991              | Beginning of the Mother's Morning Out program.  |
| 1995              | Establishment of St. Paul's Preschool.  |
| 11 June 1998      | Second expansion committee formed which will include the gym/ARC.   |
| 11 April 1999     | Commissioning of Missionaries to sister church plant, Christ Our Redeemer, in Hartselle.  |
| 2000              | Dedication of 2 <sup>nd</sup> second expansion, the Christian Life Center.  |
| 2 November 2003   | CrossLife contemporary worship service begins.  |
| 2007              | Purchase of the new organ.  |
| 31 July 2009      | St. Paul's Preschool achieved National Lutheran School Accreditation  |
| 2013              | Preschool Ministry incorporated Extended Care.  |
| 4 April 2018      | Storm damaged Church Office wing; facilities rebuilt and modernized.  |
| 2019              | Merger of LWML and Lutheran Ladies Auxiliary to form Lutheran Women in Mission (LWM).   |
| March 2020        | Pandemic restrictions opened the opportunity for live-streamed and drive-in worship services; St. Paul's did not miss a single worship opportunity. |
| 8 October 2023    | St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Decatur, Alabama celebrates its 125th Anniversary.  |