

# 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



## HOLY WEEK

Beloved in the Lord,

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God the Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The month of March this year is clearly all about the person and work of Jesus. In March, we continue during our mid-week worship services focusing on the Passion according to St. John. At the end of this month we have Holy Week, with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. On the very last day of this month we then celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. So, truly, as far as the worship life of the Church is concerned, March is entirely about the death and resurrection of Christ. Therefore, let us take a moment as we begin this month, to reflect briefly on the incredible significance of this for each of our lives, as well as our response to God's great grace.

We read in Romans chapter 8, verse 32, "[If God] *did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up [gave Him up] for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*" St. Paul's argument here is from the greater to the lesser. If God would give the greatest gift He could possibly give, the gift of His Son, would He withhold the lesser things in life, the wrappings and string? The answer is obvious: of course not! The giving of His Son into death so that sinners like us could live is a gift so extraordinary that words cannot do justice to it.

On the cross, Christ would soak up like a sponge all the wickedness, iniquity, brokenness, and pain of the entire world and go to death with it. Then, having dealt with it, He would come back alive! All the work is finished! "*And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross*" (Colossians 1:20).

When faith grabs hold of this truth, you then are truly unbeatable, unconquerable. Jesus Himself said, "*In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*" (John 16:33). And so have you in Him. In Christ you are a new creation, born again. In your Baptism you were given a new mind, new thinking, and a new disposition. Now you are able to get outside yourself to look upward toward God and love Him. Who wouldn't love a God who has done for you what He has done? And you can look outward in love toward your neighbor. You can now use your gifts, talents and abilities in loving service to Him. You can now begin to be joyfully obedient to words like these: "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service*" (Romans 12:1). Who wouldn't want to love and faithfully serve a God who has done what He has done for us?

That God's heart is one of eternal love and service is attested to by the words of Christ in Luke chapter 12: "*Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them*" (Luke 12:37). Serving His people in this way is God's nature. And may He give us the grace to live lives worthy of His love and service. May He continually empower us to be more and more like Himself, giving and serving in love.

In the love of Christ our Savior,

*Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar*

### March 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**  
March 3, 17, 31

Staffed Nursery 8am until noon

#### Bible Study

**Adult Bible Study**  
"Getting to Know God"  
Sundays 9:30am

**Pastor's Bible Study** 9:45am

**Bible Study**  
Wednesdays 10:30

**Revelation Bible Study**  
Wednesdays 6:00pm

#### Looking Ahead

**Preschool Registration**  
**Deadline**  
March 1

**Midweek Lent Services**  
March 6 and 13 @ 12noon

**Daylight Savings-spring forward**  
March 10

**Dedication of New Cross**  
Sunday, March 17

**KTT Swamp John's fundraiser**  
Tuesday, March 19

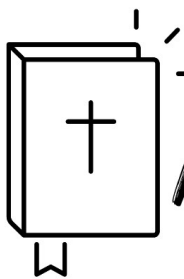
**Lent service, March 20**  
**at 7:30pm**  
Vintage Faith Church  
411 Sherman St Decatur

**Holy Week begins**  
**Palm Sunday**  
March 24

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 28 @ 12noon & 7pm

**Good Friday**  
March 29 @ 12noon & 7pm

**Easter, March 31**  
8:15 & 10:45am  
in the Sanctuary  
9:30am Easter Breakfast  
9:45am Easter Egg Hunt



# Notes from Miss Skylar



St. Paul's Family,

*Truly my soul finds rest in God;  
my salvation comes from him. Psalm 62:1*

We are in the season of Lent and the wonderful celebration of Easter is fast approaching! We have some many things coming up for everyone of all ages. We will have our annual Easter Egg hunt for the children, please donate candy to fill the eggs for this fun activity. Candy can be dropped off in the Lobby, Narthex, or Church Office.

Our High School Youth have a couple fundraisers coming up to help them raise money for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering. First will be their *Egg Your Yard* fundraiser - have them hide easter eggs for your children in your yard. They will also have a Yard Sale coming up in April, stay tuned for more information.

Looking ahead to the Summer, our 2024 VBS will be June 24-28th from 9-12pm! We hope your children can join us as we dive in to friendship with God! And we need many volunteers to make this event a success, so please talk to me about how you can volunteer!

God's Blessings,

Skylar Smith, DCE



## Youth Yard Sale April 20th

The high school youth will be holding a yard sale on April 20th. Please start collecting those items you would like to donate and we will let you know when we will begin collecting items in April! Talk to Heather or Skylar if you have any questions.

## THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

Friday, March 8th | Huntsville Havoc Hockey Game

To receive information and reminders

text "@yaanchor" to 81010

## Egg Your Yard Fundraiser

For \$30 a yard the youth will hide 80 plastic eggs filled with candy and toys in your yard in the evening of March 30. Let Heather Asher 256-476-0415 or Skylar 256-353-8759 know you want your yard to be Egged!



**ALL CHILDREN**  
up to 5th Grade -  
bring your baskets on  
Easter Sunday for our  
Egg Hunt at 9:45am  
and meet in the Gym!

## 2024 VBS



## Save The Date!

June 24-28, 2024

## Enduring Faith

### March Sunday School Lessons

- 3/3 - The Poolside Sign: Jesus Heals at Bethesda
- 3/10 - All Together for Spring Break
- 3/17 - The Matthew Matter: Jesus Calls Matthew
- 3/24 - A Revealing Restoration: Jesus Appears in Galilee
- 3/31 - Easter: Egg Hunt!

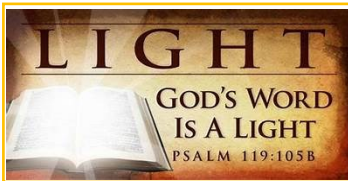
## Bible Reading Challenge

### March - Waiting on God

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: Psalm 62:1      | Day 17: Isaiah 25:9       |
| Day 2: Genesis 49:18   | Day 18: Isaiah 26:8-9     |
| Day 3: Psalm 104:27-28 | Day 19: Isaiah 30:18      |
| Day 4: Psalm 145:14-15 | Day 20: Isaiah 40:31      |
| Day 5: Psalm 25:4-5    | Day 21: Isaiah 49:23      |
| Day 6: Psalm 25:3      | Day 22: Isaiah 64:4       |
| Day 7: Psalm 25:21     | Day 23: Lamentations 3:25 |
| Day 8: Psalm 27:14     | Day 24: Lamentations 3:26 |
| Day 9: Psalm 31:24     | Day 25: Micah 7:7         |
| Day 10: Psalm 33:18-22 | Day 26: Luke 2:25, 38     |
| Day 11: Psalm 37:7-9   | Day 27: Luke 12:36        |
| Day 12: Psalm 39:7-8   | Day 28: Acts 1:4          |
| Day 13: Psalm 40:1-3   | Day 29: Hosea 12:6        |
| Day 14: Psalm 106:13   | Day 30: Psalm 62:5        |
| Day 15: Psalm 130:5    | Day 31: Psalm 62:6        |
| Day 16: Isaiah 8:17    |                           |

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!

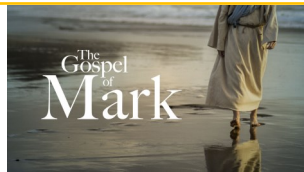


**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS A STUDY OF BOOK OF REVELATION**



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 Adult Bible Study 9:30am in Room 317 "Getting to know God"**

Join us for an interesting and lively discussion.

*Womens Bible Study*  
**March 7th and 21st in Room 317**  
**6:30p.m. Social**  
**7 p.m. Bible Study**  
 text @stpaulswbs  
 to 81010  
 updates and  
 announcements

**Lenten Midweek Series: The Passion According to St. John**

**Mid-Week Lenten Worship**

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at noon  
 – *Whom Do We Follow?* (John 19:1-16a)

Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at noon  
 – *Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross* (John 19:16b-27)

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at Faith Vintage Church  
 411 Sherman St Decatur  
 – *Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation* (John 19:28-42)

**HOLY WEEK**

**Thursday, March 28**—Maundy Thursday Worship 12noon & 7pm  
**Friday, March 29**—Good Friday Worship 12noon & 7pm  
**Sunday, March 31**—Easter Celebration Bring a Friend!  
 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:15 & 10:45am  
 Easter Breakfast at 9:30am.  
 Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45am.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Our Men's Bible Breakfast's first meeting will be on Saturday, March 2, 2024 beginning at 9:30am.

One of our members has volunteered to cook our first breakfast. We will meet in the Fellowship Room off the Lobby by the ARC (Gym) and next to the Kitchen.

**Stretch and Flex Classes**

**Pilates Fusion Classes**

All classes are Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

**Stretch and Flex** classes are at 8:30 in the gym and 11:00 in the YAC. This class combines many areas of fitness and is adaptable to many fitness levels. We work around a chair and finish sitting using small weights and resistance bands.

**Pilates Fusion** meets in the gym at 9:30. This class combines cardio, resistance training and Pilates.

For more information please call Chonita at 256-303-0098.

**Altar Flowers**

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

**Adult Confirmation Class**

Wednesdays at 8pm  
 In-person and by Zoom  
 Talk to Pastor for more info

# March 2024

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
25 Guest speaker - Rev David Buss 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School with Rev David Buss 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	26 PS celebrate Dr Seuss week 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	27 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders	28 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Lent Worship (FbL) 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	29 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	1	2 9:30am Men's Bible Breakfast
3 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	4 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)	5 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting	6 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Lent Worship (FbL) 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	7 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	8	9 1:00pm KTT "Be U" event
10 <b>Daylight savings begins</b> 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	11 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm No KTT this week	12 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education Board 7:00pm Vestry	13 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Lent Worship (FbL) 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	14 <b>Newsletter deadline</b> 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	15	16 "The Gospel Through Music" Concert
17 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Dedication of New Cross 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	18 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	19 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 4:00pm Swamp Johns 4-7pm KTT Fundraiser 6:00pm Preschool Board 7:30pm Fellowship Board	20 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Worship at <u>Vintage Church</u>	21 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	22	23
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Special Bell Ringing</b> 8:00am Nursery open 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	25 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-Th)	26 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting	27 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>12noon &amp; 7pmWorship</b> 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00pm PS Egg Hunt	29	30 <b>Good Friday</b> <b>12noon &amp; 7pm</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>PS EC closes at noon</b> <b>No KTT</b>
31 <b>Easter</b> 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† in the Sanctuary 9:30am Easter breakfast 9:45 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary	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 Church Office Closed 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise	3 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	4 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	5	6



**BIRTHDAYS**

Mar 1 Susan Staudt  
Mar 1 Roy Weiland  
Mar 2 Carl Pour  
Mar 4 Carolyn Harville  
Mar 6 John Fortune  
Mar 6 Skylar Smith  
Mar 7 Jimmy Reed  
Mar 8 Sue Bowman  
Mar 12 Maggie Herda  
Mar 12 April Nave  
Mar 15 Patrick Helpingstine  
Mar 16 Adriana McLemore  
Mar 18 Jaxon Staudt

Mar 18 Crystal Nelson  
Mar 21 Cynthia Southers  
Mar 22 Kody Asher  
Mar 22 April Borden  
Mar 23 Chad Kruger  
Mar 26 Genene Strom  
Mar 26 David Waple  
Mar 27 Bonnie Bullen  
Mar 28 Meighan Maples  
Mar 29 Hunter Livingston  
Mar 30 Ronnie Atkins  
Mar 31 Leslie Parker  
Mar 31 Jordan Herrarte  
Mar 31 Ashlee Bauer  
Mar 31 Laura Vest


**Easter is March 31, 2024**

**Easter Lilies will be on sale this month. Watch for an announcement and order forms in the Narthex and Lobby. Submit payment with order.**

Mar 10 Rick & Carol Morgan  
Mar 15 Phillip & Tammy Corlew  
Mar 16 Dale & Melinda Carlson  
Mar 17 Mike & Sue Bosco  
Mar 21 Michael & Stephanie Holway  
Mar 26 Mike & Tootie Johnson  
Mar 27 David & Jane Burrell  
Mar 30 Randy & Carolyn Harville  
Mar 30 Jerry & Janice Welch

*God's Blessings on your Special Day!*

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

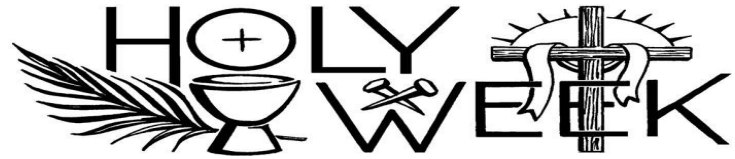
	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24 Palm Sunday	March 31 Easter
Elders	8:15am Joseph Woodbury	Bill Darwin	Mickey Whiteside	Mike Johnson	All elders
Ushers	8:15am Graham Peebles James Thrasher Michael Kimmett Matthew Kimmett	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Mickey Whiteside Mike Widmar	Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Mike Ater Bob Seibert Mike Johnson	Graham Peebles James Thrasher Michael Kimmett Matthew Kimmett
Acolytes	8:15am Emma	Owen	Katelyn	Emma	Katelyn
AV Techs	8:15am Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	8:15 Sullivant 10:45 Maschke
Readers	8:15am Jeff Pittman	open	Nancy Neuendorf	Luke Frasher	Gary Nagy
Sanctuary Flowers	Tootie Johnson	Open	Melinda Carlson	Linda Hyde	open
Altar Guild for March: Melinda Carlson and Leesa Pittman			Counters for March: Dave/Jane Burrell and Don Olson		
Elders	10:45am Gary Nagy	Tim Herfurth	Gary Nagy	Mike Johnson	
Host families	10:45am Herfurth family	McRae Family	Morgan family	Atkins family	
AV Techs	10:45am Rick & Carol Morgan	James Gilchrist	Tim Herfurth	Mike Ringers	




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




**Handbell Choir**  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
Wednesdays at 6:00pm  
in the choir loft.



 <p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b></p>	 <p><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b></p>	 <p><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b></p>
<p><b>Worship</b> <b>March 24</b> 8:15 in the Sanctuary and on Facebook 10:45 in the Gym</p>	<p><b>Worship</b> <b>March 28</b> noon &amp; 7pm in the Sanctuary and on Facebook</p>	<p><b>Worship</b> <b>March 29</b> noon &amp; 7pm in the Sanctuary and on Facebook</p>



2023 Year-to-Date Average Attendance  
In-church attendees 114  
Facebook sign-ins 17



Current Loan Balance: **\$220,902**  
Endowment Fund Balance: **\$13,852**  
**Financial Plan Activity thru January 31, 2024**  
YTD FirstFruits Giving: **\$ 32,768** PLAN: **\$37,500**  
YTD Total Expenses: **- \$ 54,218** PLAN: **\$41,191**  
Plan Activity thru Dec **- \$ 21,450**

**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, 25% of our Givers give safely online;  
to join them,

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


**Online Giving is greatly encouraged!**



**VANCO**



Secure Giving at  
[www.StPaulsDec.com](http://www.StPaulsDec.com)



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

## Elders and AV Serving in Lent

- March 6 at 12pm**  
Bill Darwin, Bob Sullivant
- March 13 at 12pm**  
Mickey Whiteside, Bob Sullivant
- March 20 at 7:30pm**  
at Vintage Faith Church  
411 Sherman St Decatur  
Gary Nagy
- Maundy Thursday, March 28**  
12pm Mitchell Whiteside, Bob Sullivant  
7pm Johnson, Rich Maschke
- Good Friday, March 29**  
12pm Gary Nagy, Bob Sullivant  
7pm Tim Herfurth, Rich Maschke

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](http://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 credit card or if paying by check, give checks to Dee.

IN MEMORY  
DONNA G. SMITH  
1950 - 2020

# Sharing the Gospel through music



**Saturday, March 16  
5pm at Ascension  
Lutheran Church**

**3801 Oakwood Ave. NW. Huntsville, AL  
Or Sunday March 17 at 8am and 10:30am at St Paul's  
Lutheran Church 513 Fourth Ave SE, Cullman, AL**

A select choir of seminarians preparing for full-time service as pastors in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from Concordia Seminary, St Louis, will be performing as part of its 2024 concert tour, "Not Unto Us." Under the direction of Cantor Phillip Magness, interim associate director of music arts, the choir delights in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music. Come and be delighted by the musical offerings of these future pastors!

## Special Guest Preacher and Presenter Sunday, February 25

On Sunday, February 25th, St. Paul's welcomes Rev. Dave Buss, the new Mission Executive of the LCMS Southern District. Pastor Buss will preach in worship (8:15 and 10:45) He will present during the Sunday School hour (starting at 9:30 in the Fellowship Room) on Outreach and being an effective Missional Congregation—a critical topic for these challenging post-Christian times in our culture. Please join us on the 25th for both his impactful preaching and Bible teaching.



**You're Invited to  
FAITHLINKS!**

**Wednesdays Dinner  
at 5:30pm  
Classes start at 6:00pm**

# March 10



Thank you to all who helped us with the Sub Sandwich fundraiser. We made over \$300 to start our National Youth Gathering 2025 fund.

*Thank you*

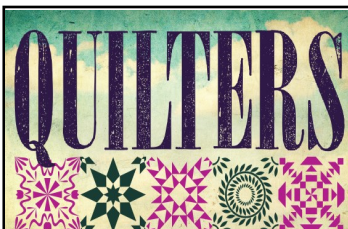


Are now meeting in the Parlor every Thursday at 11am. Bring a friend!

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.



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

For more information contact Pete Alvis at 256.616.1774.

To St Paul's Quilters,  
You all were so nice to share with me the beautiful quilt you made. I and others have certainly enjoyed it on the foot of my bed. I can't thank you enough. Hope you have a blessed New Year.

*Nancy*

Thank you, I wish Bo had not been at physical therapy when you took the quilt to him. I'm sure he would have hugged all of you! Thank you for the quilt. It is beautiful (as are all of you). We are deeply grateful for the kindness and compassion you extended to our family during our time of loss.

*Marian Paradise and family*



## 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 Decatur is a Community

By Gary Nagy

We are family here at St. Paul's Lutheran Decatur. Recently the Elders studied a report about why people leave the church (or don't join the church). The report said one of the main reasons for "abandoning" the church is that people don't feel like they belong or are wanted. They feel lonely and isolated.

But the church is designed by God to be a community. St. Paul says believers make up "one body." A body needs all its parts. St. Peter says we are like a wall of "living" stones. A wall missing a few stones is obvious. And we have a good community here that cares. The Elders are working on ways to build our community better and stronger and include more and more people. Here are a few ways to begin with.

Pray for others. If you take St. Paul's Member Directory and add just 7 families to your daily prayers, you will pray for the entire congregation each month. And you don't even have to know the people—God does. Ask Him to bless them and heal them and strengthen them.

If some haven't been around for a bit, call them and ask if they are alright and if they need anything.

Send out "Thinking of you, praying for you" note cards to people you know.

"Dawdle" after church. Dawdle is a technical term that means, "Hang around after church". But don't always hang out with just your closest friends. Look around and say, "Hey," and nod to others. More ideas will be coming in future monthly newsletters.



Aluminum can tabs. One of our members, Jo, lives in Ohio in a nursing home. She gets cards and letters and the monthly Epistle, and an elder whose daughter lives nearby visits her whenever he is there. Jo has been collecting pop can tabs for years and donating them to the Ronald McDonald House Programs. Houses are a home away from home that provide comfort, support and resources to families who travel far from home for the medical care their child needs.

St. Paul's would like to help Jo collect pop can tabs. As you can bring them to church and put them in a container in the narthex of the church or by the table in the ARC. They will be taken up to Jo periodically.



An aluminum pop top tab looks like this:



### Outreach Project

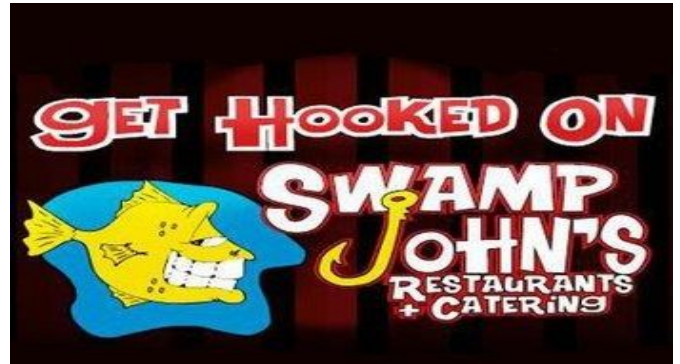
Thank you to everyone who contributes and prays for the visitors to our Blessing Box!

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!

## Swamp John's Fundraiser Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:00-7:00 \$15.00

Sponsored by Kidz, Tweenz & Teenz Inc (KTT)  
Located in St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
1700 Carridale St. SW  
Decatur, AL 35601



For ticket purchases call  
256-426-7734/256-666-8601  
Tickets on sale Sundays between services

With each  
ticket  
purchased, you  
WILL receive a  
raffle ticket for  
a chance to win  
a NEW 50" Smart TV.



Additional raffle tickets  
may be purchased for  
\$5.00 each.



Pre-selling for the Swamp John's dinner  
ON SALE NOW.

*For your convenience we'll have the  
Fellowship Room open so that you may  
dine in.*

# St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool 2023-2024

The Summer and Fall 2024-25 Registration DEADLINE is MARCH 1 for St. Paul's members and current students - call Ms Bethany TODAY at (256) 353-1353 if you are interested in registering your child or grandchild for Preschool for Summer or for the Fall!!!!



This month is all about Easter

March is sponsored by the number 7 and the color **yellow**.

This month the children will learn about plants and butterflies. The shape of the month is diamond and the letter Zz. **Our Bible stories and study will be Jesus eats with Zacchaeus, Jesus rides into Jerusalem, Good Friday and Easter.**



Spring Break is March 11th-15th. We will have extended care only. No preschool. Let us know if your child will be attending.

Tuesday, March 19th we will have pictures taken with a lamb.



An Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Thursday, March 28th at noon. Volunteers are needed to hide eggs. Donations of plastic eggs and candy greatly appreciated.

On Good Friday, March 29th, we will be closing at noon.



For more info and pictures of activities, please visit [www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec.Preschool](http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec.Preschool)

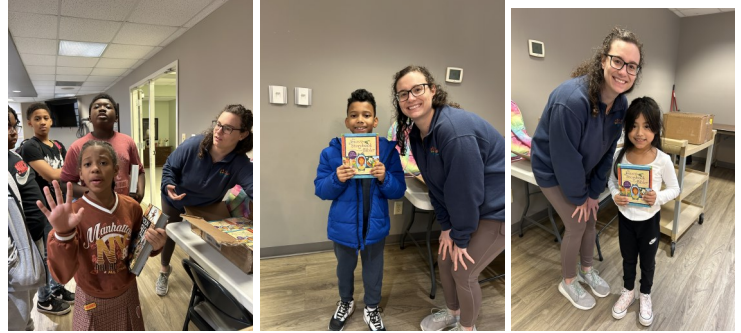
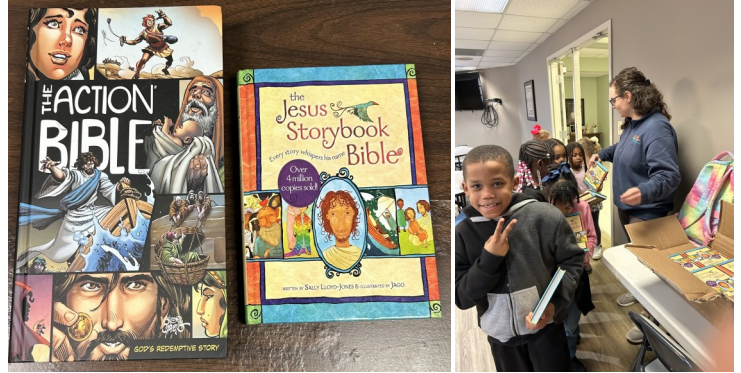




# Afterschool Care

Wednesday Night Vibes


A special thank you to St. Paul's for giving every child an age-appropriate Bible. They were super stoked to receive them!



Special thanks to Luke Frasher for stepping in for Skylar in her absence. He was a natural! He did an amazing job with the kids!

Skylar Smith directing our weekly chapel sessions. Some of the children were getting their old time religion on!





## SWAMP JOHN'S

**Fundraiser**  
**Tuesday, March 19**  
**4:00-7:00 \$15.00**

For ticket purchases call  
256-426-7734/256-666-8601

**With each ticket purchased you WILL receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a NEW 50" Smart TV. Additional raffle tickets may also be purchased.**

### Summer Camp

Registration is in progress. A \$75.00 non-refundable deposit will hold your spot. Spaces are limited! Camp dates are June 3rd—July 26th



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

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



Music makes me Happy!



CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS

**October 8, 2023**

**Our Celebration  
Continues!**

Over the years, many photos have been taken of St. Paul's and its people. Here is a selection of photos featuring the building of the church on Carridale and its later expansion.



Groundbreaking in 1968.

*Beth Hornish and Ron Fritze*



Architect's rendering of the new church. This view is looking at the church from the back parking lot and the main entrance to the sanctuary.



The sanctuary under construction.



Placing the Bell in its new home.



The new church, completed. Note that the area where the pastor's office and other offices is now did not exist then. Check how thick the original exterior wall is.



The postcard photo of the new church with a nice lawn and young oak trees.



Groundbreaking for Fellowship and Education Wings - 1988



He Is  
Risen

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
1700 Carridale St SW  
Decatur AL 35601

[www.StPaulsDec.com](http://www.StPaulsDec.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/StPaulsDec](https://www.Facebook.com/StPaulsDec)



**Lenten Midweek Series:**  
*The Passion*  
*According to St. John*

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> - 12noon**

– *Whom Do We Follow?* (John 19:1-16a)

**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon**

– *Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross* (John 19:16b-27)

**Wednesday, March 20 - 7:30pm at Vintage Faith Church**  
**411 Sherman St Decatur, AL (former St Paul's location)**

– *Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation* (John 19:28-42)



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

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

**Please let the Church Office know if you would like to  
receive our 1Calls announcements.**



**[churchoffice@stpaulsdec.com](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulsdec.com)**

**Calling All  
Thrivent Members!!!**

Direct your  
**Thrivent Choice  
Dollars**  
Today!



You can see the number of Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> you have to direct by logging in to Thrivent.com and scroll to the bottom of your Account Overview page to see your available Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> or call 800-847-4836.

The deadline to direct 2023 Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> is March 31.