

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,

The month of October is going to be an exciting one. There are so many special things happening at St. Paul's this month that it makes one proud (in a God honoring way) to be a Lutheran in the South! Though we live in predominately Baptist country, and dearly love these brothers and sisters in Christ, this month we celebrate our wonderful Lutheran heritage in a multifaceted way. For truly, Lutherans began the original "back to the Bible" movement with the Protestant Reformation started by Dr. Martin Luther, and in October we celebrate especially all that God has done in our lives through His Holy Word.

The month begins with the start of the Children's Christmas Program practices (hard to believe it's already time to prepare!) on Wednesday, October 2nd, with Skylar leading this effort. Saturday, October 5th, Reverend Gary Nagy will conduct a tour of St. Paul's stained glass windows at three different times (9 AM, 11 AM, and 1 PM). Sunday, October 6th we will have one service in the Sanctuary, starting at 10:45 AM, that will be a Narrative Service explaining the different parts of the Lutheran liturgy as a concluding worship service for the celebration of the 125 years that the Lord has blessed St. Paul's Lutheran Church with life in Christ and ministry to one another and our community. And following worship, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) will host a scrumptious Bratwurst dinner that you won't want to miss as well.

Then, on Sunday, October 13th we have the Blessing of the Quilts at the early service, an encouraging and always important congregational Voters Meeting during the Sunday School hour, and we begin the special "Then Sings My Soul (Psalm 71:23)" sermon series as we focus on the emphasis of well-known hymns over three Sundays, as follows:

Sunday, October 13th – Rock of Ages (Hebrews 13:8)

Sunday, October 20th – Just as I Am (Luke 15:20)

Sunday, October 27th – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Psalm 46:11)

On Reformation Sunday, along with focusing on the emphasis of Luther's famous hymn, we will praise God for, and rejoice in, the main emphases of the Reformation and the work of Martin Luther. Two of the greatest accomplishments of Martin Luther for the Church were undoubtedly the translation of the Bible, so that God might speak directly to the people, and the introduction of an order of service with hymns in the vernacular, so that people at worship might speak directly to God.

In connection with the continual ministry and outreach efforts of St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool, and Kidz, Tweenz, and Teens Enrichment (KTT), St. Paul's will host the always joyful "Trunk Or Treat" event on Wednesday, October 30th starting at 5:30 PM, where preschool and KTT families, as well as others in our community, typically attend in good numbers.

All of what I have mentioned here are the special activities for this month, and as you know there are so very many ongoing ministry activities that take place here at St. Paul's as well that make our congregation such a wonderful place to call our church home.

So, truly, in the month of October especially, isn't it great being a Lutheran Christian! Hasn't the Lord incredibly blessed us over 125 years and still today! Yes indeed, praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Grateful in Christ,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

October 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
October 6, 20

Staffed Nursery 8am until noon

Sunday Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study
Sundays 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 9:45am

Weekday Bible Studies

Wednesday 10:30am
Wednesdays 6:00pm

Looking Ahead

Tribute to Lutheran Music
Sunday, September 29
9:30am

Tour of Church Windows
Saturday, October 5
9, 11am and 1pm

One Worship Service
October 6 at 10:45am

LWML Brat Dinner/Raffle
Sunday, October 6

Blessing of the Quilts
Sunday October 13 at 8:15am

Voters Meeting
October 13

Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 30
5:30pm

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 gos-
pel of the grace of God." (Acts
20:24)



Notes from Miss Skylar



St. Paul's Family,

"He said, 'The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence.'"
2 Samuel 22:2-3

Now that it's October, it's hard to believe but it is time to begin practice for our Children's Christmas Program! This year our Program will be SCUBA Christmas which connects what we learned at VBS with the Christmas Story! All children and youth are welcome to join and be a part of the program; practices will be on Wednesdays in the gym at 6:15pm and on Sundays during Sunday School Opening in the gym at 9:30am. Let me know if you would like to be a part of the program or if you have any questions!

Also happening at the end of the month will be our annual Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 30th, at 5:30pm! We have begun collecting candy and there are forms out for anyone who would like to host a trunk! If you would like to host a trunk, please fill out a form or contact the church office!

God's Blessings,
Skylar Smith, DCE



Children's Christmas Program

Practices begin Wednesday, October 2nd, at 6:15pm in the gym! We will also practice Sunday Mornings during opening! Talk to Skylar if you would like to be a part of our program this year!

FAITHLINKS



FAITHLINK ACTIVITIES HAPPENING EVERY WEDNESDAY:

DINNER - 5:30PM - FELLOWSHIP ROOM

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES - 6:15PM - ARC/GYM

NURSERY - 6:15PM - RM 101

BIBLE STUDY - 6:15PM - RM 317

National Youth Gathering 2025

The High School Youth will have a parent meeting on Sunday, October 6th, in the Youth Room at 9:30 am.

Please come by for information about the next Youth Gathering to be held in New Orleans July 18-23, 2025.

Contact Heather Asher or Skylar if your youth would like to attend the next gathering!

THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

Oct 26th | 6:30pm | Game Night

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

Enduring Faith

October Sunday School Lessons

- 10/6 - Preaching and Perils: Paul's Ministry and Hardships
- 10/13 - Fall Break: All Together
- 10/20 - Paul's Prison Protection: The Plot to Kill Paul
- 10/27 - A Confident Confession: Peter Confesses Christ

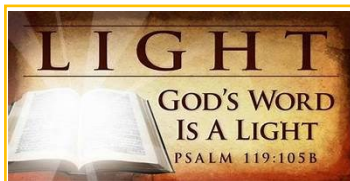
Bible Reading Challenge

October - Finding Refuge in 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: 2 Samuel 22:2-3 | Day 17: Nahum 1:7 |
| Day 2: Isaiah 41:10 | Day 18: Psalm 62:2 |
| Day 3: Psalm 91:1-4 | Day 19: Psalm 121:7-8 |
| Day 4: 2 Timothy 4:18 | Day 20: Exodus 14:14 |
| Day 5: 2 Thessalonians 3:3 | Day 21: Proverbs 30:5 |
| Day 6: Psalm 23:1-6 | Day 22: Psalm 16:8 |
| Day 7: Proverbs 19:23 | Day 23: Psalm 18:30 |
| Day 8: Psalm 46:1 | Day 24: Psalm 5:11 |
| Day 9: Psalm 138:7 | Day 25: Psalm 3:3 |
| Day 10: James 4:7 | Day 26: Psalm 16:1 |
| Day 11: Proverbs 18:10 | Day 27: Psalm 118:6 |
| Day 12: Psalm 32:7 | Day 28: Psalm 118:8 |
| Day 13: Deuteronomy 31:6 | Day 29: 1 John 4:4 |
| Day 14: 1 John 5:19 | Day 30: Psalm 121:8 |
| Day 15: Romans 8:31 | Day 31: Luke 21:28 |
| Day 16: Hebrews 13:6 | |

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 2024 Bible Reading Challenge on page 2 to help us be in His Word and in His light!

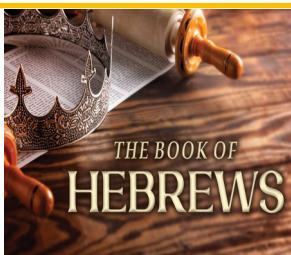
Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday mornings we are reading 1 Samuel! We hope you can join us at 10:30am in Room 318! Talk to Skylar if you have any questions!



Adult Bible Study Sunday Morning 9:30am and Wednesday at 6pm in Room 317

Join us for an interesting and lively discussion.



Men's Bible Study Saturday October 12 & 26 at 7:30am

Daniel Bible Study Saturday October 12 at 11:00am

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study:

Ephesians: Life In God's Diverse Family

The message of the gospel that Paul brought to the culturally diverse city of Ephesus forever transformed its citizen's lives. But the church in Ephesus had the same problems we face today: it was a multiethnic group of believers who found it difficult to come together as one and put aside their differences. In this study we will journey together through Paul's letter to the Ephesians to see how the apostle presented the revolutionary idea that Jesus came not only to forgive sins but also to create a unified family out of a diverse people. Join us Sunday mornings starting at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Room.



October 13 at 8:15am service



Adult Confirmation Class Wednesdays at 6:15pm

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

INTRODUCING
The Lutheran Study Bible
App

Get started at
\$9.99/year or \$2.99/month

Available on the **App Store** | GET IT ON **Google Play**

**Your Favorite Study Bible
Now Fits in Your Pocket**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

October
3rd and 17th
In Room 317
6:30 p.m. Social
7p.m. Bible Study

Test @stpaulswbs to
81010 for updates and
announcements



St. Paul's Legacy Endowment Fund

provides the opportunity to make commitments and plans that may not be possible through our annual budget. Examples of programs and projects to

be supported include:

- SPLC Preschool;
- Community outreach and social ministries;
- Music and youth programs;
- Global ministries

Thrivent Charitable staff is available to work with you and your attorney, financial advisor and accountant to facilitate a charitable gift that benefits our endowment fund, fits your financial situation and provides you with maximum tax benefits. Phone: 800-365-4172

Email: thriventcharitable@thrivent.com. or online: thriventcharitable.com

Why Give?

All gifts, whatever the size, help grow the mission.



Fall Semi-Annual Voters Assembly Meeting

Sunday, October 13

9:30 am between services

in the Fellowship Room

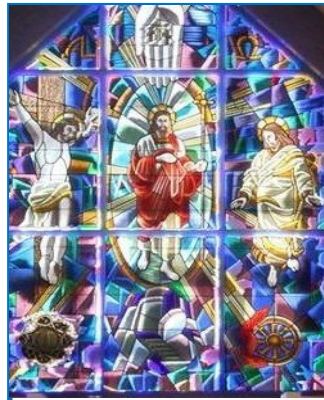
- Coffee & Donuts provided -



Annual Church ELECTIONS



**2025 Financial Plan Presented
for Approval**



Join us for a guided tour of our Stained Glass Windows in our Sanctuary and Narthex.

Saturday, October 5

9am, 11am, and 1pm

It is with great pleasure that we at St. Paul's Lutheran

Church invite you to celebrate our 125th anniversary by attending a guided tour complete with an explanation in our Sanctuary and Narthex, on Saturday, October 5. There will be 3 tours; 9am, 11am, and 1pm. No reservations are necessary.

Complimentary refreshments will be served, and St. Paul's 125th Anniversary History/Cookbooks will also be available for purchase for \$20.00 each.



Wednesday, October 30

starting at 5:30pm

**Candy and Trunk Hosts
Needed!**

Dear friends,

I want to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness during the last few weeks. I appreciate all the thoughts, prayers, texts, and cards. I am FINALLY getting settled into my new home at 256 Siegert Place in Nolensville, TN. I've been busy with unpacking, unexpectedly having to buy a new car, and meeting new friends.

I've visited a few churches but haven't found a new one yet. Miss all my friends at St. Paul's and in Decatur but truly feel that God knew it was time for me to make a change! I hope this finds everyone well.

Thank you again.

Love in Christ,
Nancy Neuendorf



The calls you receive are from

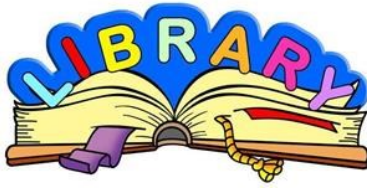
(855) 248-7295

**Please add this number to your
Contacts and label it "St Paul's Calls."**

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



ChurchOffice@StPaulsDec.com



From the Library: "It's a small world in the Missouri Synod Story."

One book given to the St. Paul's Church Library from the Hornish Family Library in memory of Beth and to the glory of God was "Pastor Epistles" by Mark Love. Turns out Mark Love is a pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Toledo, OH. One of our families here has relatives who go to that church, so while they were visiting in Ohio they went to that church and got Pastor Love to autograph our copy of the book. It reads; 'To the Saints of St. Paul's—All God's Blessing, Rev. Mark W. Love.' Check the book out in the new arrivals section on the library desk.



We Are a Community

People who live in a community usually live by a certain code. In some historical neighborhoods, for example, there are guidelines for renovating their homes in keeping with the style and period of the neighborhood. In another example, some neighbors have taken it upon themselves to not use fireworks because one of their neighbors suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

St. Paul's has a code of living. We are not forced to follow it, however. It is a code that flows from our love for others. Our love is rooted and grounded in Jesus' love for us—dying on the cross to take away sin and rising on the third day in victory.

St. Paul wrote of this code in his epistle to Titus: Be submissive to rulers and authorities, be obedient, be ready for every good work, speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, be gentle, and show perfect courtesy toward all people (3:1-2).



Celebrating Pastor & family
for 20 years in ministry.



October 2024

† denotes Holy Communion celebrated during Worship

Church Nursery 8:00am - Noon on Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
29 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Tribute to Lutheran Music 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship 1:30pm Porch visits	30 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	1 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Fellowship board mtg	2 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbell rehearsal 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Praise Band	3 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	4	5 8:30am CrossLife Set up 9am, 11am, and 1pm Tour of church windows
6 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am One Worship† Service in the Sanctuary 12:00pm LWML Bratwurst dinner	7 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-W) 10:00am LWML Meeting (mingle 9:30-10:00) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-W)	8 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education meeting 7:00pm Vestry meeting	9 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel <i>No FaithLinks dinner</i> 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbell rehearsal 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Praise Band	10 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	11	12 7:30am Men's Bible study 8:30am CrossLife Set up 11:00am Daniel study
13 8:15am Blessing of the Quilts 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Voters Meeting 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship 2:00pm -4:00pm Building use	14 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th)	15 Newsletter deadline 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (T-F)	16 10:00am Quilters 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbell rehearsal 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Praise Band	17 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	18	19 8:30am CrossLife Set up
20 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship†	21 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	22 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Preschool Board mtg 6:30pm Elders meeting	23 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study 6:00pm Handbell rehearsal 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Praise Band	24 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	25	26 7:30am Men's Bible study 8:30am CrossLife Set up 6:30pm Young Adult Game Night
27 Reformation Sunday 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	28 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	29 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting	30 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel <i>No FaithLinks dinner</i> 5:30pm Trunk or Treat 6:00pm Bible study 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:30pm Praise Band	31 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise Class 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	1	2 8:30am CrossLife Set up



Oct 1	Dee Livingston	Oct 9	Steve Smith Jr
Oct 1	Phillip Corlew	Oct 10	Richie Becerra
Oct 1	Rebecca Reichenbach	Oct 10	Jacob McRae
Oct 2	Reagan Maples	Oct 11	Jim Disher
Oct 4	Henley Holway-Jones	Oct 12	Ben Carlson
Oct 5	Pete Alvis	Oct 13	Gloria Mitchell
Oct 6	Ron Seibert	Oct 16	Dottie Hedgecock
Oct 6	Renee Burch	Oct 16	Georgia Hale
Oct 6	Lauren Miller	Oct 17	Art Gaertner
Oct 7	Joseph Baker	Oct 17	Kathleen O'Brien
Oct 7	Bobbie Seibert	Oct 18	Cole Maples
Oct 8	Grace Kretzschmar	Oct 22	Sam Hellebrand
Oct 9	Terri Mahan	Oct 22	Aurora Nelson
		Oct 26	Graham Peebles
		Oct 26	Tascha Mowen
		Oct 27	Mike McRae
		Oct 27	Brad Winters

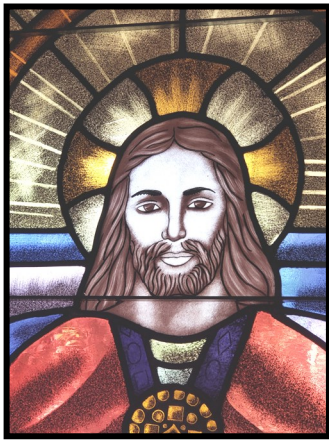
Oct 28	Glenda Ater
Oct 28	Lily Reichenbach
Oct 30	Debbie Kleri
Oct 30	Amanda Ballentine
Oct 30	Owen Blaske
Oct 31	Alysia Johnson
Oct 31	Mike McMinn
Oct 31	Lexi Michelfelder



Oct 3	Gary & Judy Nagy
Oct 9	James & Alison Gilchrist
Oct 15	Darryl & Rebecca Mitchell
Oct 21	Mark & Joy McMinn
Oct 23	Patrick & Evelyn Helpingstine

God's Blessings on your Special Day!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!



All the stained glass windows depicting Christ have a "halo" around His head. The halo is divided into 8 parts (you see only 7). A halo we can figure out. But why 8 parts (and not, say, 7 for example). Hint: it has to do with the 8th day. What's the 8th day? Find out about it and more at the church windows and symbols tour on October 5.



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.



ONE Worship Service

In the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 6

At 10:45am

LWML is hosting an

Oktoberfest



Sunday, October 6

Serving begins after 10:45 Worship

Pre-sale for Brats Dinner

Sunday, Sept 29

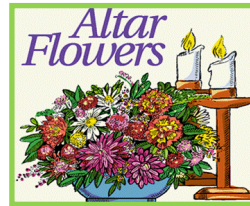
after 8:15 and 10:45 Worship

Tickets limited, GET yours early!!

Adult Plate: \$12; Children 10 & under: \$5

Proceeds from the dinner will be used for local LWML missions projects. Thank you for your support!

*Dinner includes: Brats, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Desserts, Tea, Lemonade and Water (hot dogs available)



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



Choir rehearsal
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
in the choir loft.
New members welcome!
For more info contact
Mary Morgan



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.



Wednesday

October 30

5:30-7pm

Host a trunk or donate candy for this fun night



Wednesday Night Dinners
5:30pm

It's a Fall Y'all Basket Raffle

The ladies of the LWML have gathered an array of wonderful handmade items, canned goods, and Farmer's Market finds. Raffle tickets are on sale Sunday, September 29 and October 6 following the worship services.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Stop by the table to see the basket and all the goodies inside.

Drawing will be during the Brat Dinner, October 6. You do not need to be present to win.

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

		October 6 10:45am ONE Service	October 13	October 20	October 27
Elders	8:15am	Mickey Whiteside	Mike Johnson	Joseph Woodbury	Bill Darwin
Ushers	8:15am	Owen Blaske Jack Blaske Mike Johnson Jeff Pittman	Graham Peebles Michael Kimmett Mathew Kimmett Mike Ater	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Micky Whiteside Mike Widmar	Bob Seibert Rick Daniel Tim Nave Oliver Nave
Acolytes	8:15am	Open	Ben	Oliver	Ben
A/V Techs	8:15am	Rich Maschke	Rich Maschke	Rich Maschke	Rich Maschke
Readers	8:15am	Jeff Pittman	Pam Meadows	Mitchell Whiteside	Gary Nagy
Sanctuary Flowers		Don Olson	Linda Hyde	Joan Jarvis	Linda Hyde
Altar Guild for October: Val Blaske, Jennifer Kimmett		Counters for October: Don Olson and Sue Bosco			
Elders	10:45am		Nagy	Herfurth	Nagy
Host families	10:45am		McRae family	Atkins family	Ballentine family
A/V Techs	10:45am		James Gilchrist	Mike Ringer	Tim Herfurth



St Paul's Quilters meet in Room 317 each Wednesday at 10am. Join us! For more information contact Pete Alvis at 256.616.1774.



AV volunteers needed for the 8:15am service. Training will be provided. Please contact Bob Sullivant or Rich Maschke.



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



Sign up to read once a month or as an occasional substitute. Training provided. Please call Sue Bosco.



CrossLife service set-up at 8:30 AM every Saturday.



Come and Knit or crochet with us! Work on your own project or special church projects. We have patterns and yarn galore! Meet us in the parlor every Thursday at 11am.

For more information contact MaryKay Hodges



2024 Year-to-Date Average Attendance
In-church attendees 129
Facebook sign-ins 12



Current Loan Balance: **\$209,157**
Endowment Fund Balance: **\$14,726**

Financial Plan Activity thru August 31, 2024

YTD FirstFruits Giving: **\$300,510** PLAN: **\$300,000**
YTD Total Expenses: - **\$336,438** PLAN: **\$329,526**

Plan Activity thru August - **\$35,928 more expenses than income**

A Tribute to Lutheran Music

Why do Lutherans sing what they sing?
Is there such a thing as a "Lutheran" hymn?"
What makes Lutheran music unique?

These questions and more will be answered at our Tribute to Lutheran Music which will be presented between services on September 29. Please join us in the sanctuary as we explore the rich history of Lutheran music presented in music and song by our musicians and choir.

This is something you won't want to miss!

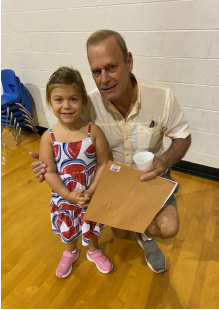
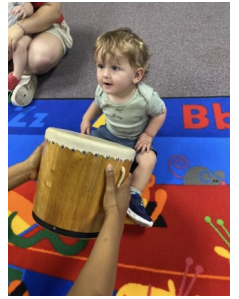


Reformation Sunday

October 27

St Paul's Lutheran Preschool 2023-2024

grand
parents
day



October is Fire Safety Month



This month Pre-k4 will be going on a field trip. Watch Brightwheel for more information.

Fall break will be October 10th and 11th. We will have **Extended Care Only. No preschool.**



October is sponsored by the number 3, the color **orange**, and triangle. This month the children will learn about fire prevention and fall. Toddlers, 2s and 3s will learn about letters Hh, Oo, Qq and Cc. Pre-k4 will learn about Ff, Hh, Oo, Qq and Cc. Our Bible stories and study will be Gideon, Naomi and Ruth, Hannah and David.



We will have a Fall Festival on Thursday, October 17th.

Pizza day will be Thursday, October 31st. Children will not need to bring a lunch.



The church will have Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 30th from 7:30-5:30. Bring the whole family!

On Thursday, October 31st we will have a Halloween Parade. Children may wear or bring their Halloween costume (no scary costumes please). At **Noon** we will trick or treat at the office end then parade around the gym.



GRANDPARENTS
fill the world
with LOVE



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



Afterschool Care

KTT Inc Members

Members pictured below are our school year 2024-2025 Kindergarten – third graders only.

Next month we will feature 4th-8th graders.



Christian
Robinson
Not pictured



KTT will be Closed on the following dates:

**Oct 10, 11 Fall Holiday,
Oct 14 Professional Development**

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

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

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

October 8, 2023

CrossLife

Contemporary Worship

Enters Its 21st Year

Before his retirement, Pastor Reinhardt had expressed the need to add a service that was less formal for those members who were hesitant to attend services in the Sanctuary. In 2000 the ARC was built to the glory of God to be used in ministry to the community. So, in 2003, Pastor Dave Lewis and several St. Paul's members attended a weekend workshop entitled *Natural Church Development* (NCD). Out of this workshop and the Long-Range Planning Committee's goal to establish a third alternative worship service to be held in the ARC, Pastor Dave Lewis and Pastor Kevin Kieschnick asked Bill Klein to coordinate the third worship service. He was to design a worship service using contemporary Christian music along with elements of liturgical worship with confession/absolution, communion, scripture reading, creeds, responsive readings, etc. The service was named *CrossLife* based on John 5:24.

A worship team, *Audience of One*, was formed, and they led the first contemporary worship service in the ARC on the first Sunday in November 2003. Attendance was 25-30 (including the 7-member band). Band members included Bill and Cathy Klein, Joey and Paige Cantrell, Karen Gaertner, Pauline Maas, Paula Brown, and in 2004, Jane Burrell, and A/V support was given by Rick Morgan and Jeff Morgan. Saturday setup took 3-4 hours to run audio and visual equipment across the gym and to set up a platform, video screen, and chairs for the worshippers. The love of the Lord instilled enthusiasm!



From 2003 through the pastoral vacancy in 2005-2006, growth was slow but continuous, and the attendance averaged 40-50 worshipers. With the calling of Pastor Eddie Scheler as our pastor in 2006 brought our first keyboardist to the worship band, Tricia Scheler. In the summer of 2007, the first ARC renovation project took place that included a larger platform/altar area, a wall-mounted projector, a permanent screen, storage closets, an altar area with carpeting, and additional partitions for enclosure and sound dampening, after all, it is a gym!

All funds were raised outside of budget on a pay-as-you-go basis. Jerry Alldredge and Rick Morgan designed and constructed from wood the platform, the lectern, baptismal fount, cabinetry, and the altar so that all could be stowed away during the week. Rebecca Mitchell designed the ceiling banners and sound platforms to reflect the contemporary setting, and worship band members made and installed them as well as painted the dark navy background behind the platform. Audrey Hamm organized setup teams for chairs and tables that still needed to be put in place and taken down each Sunday for gym activities during the week. This project reduced setup time to 2 hours and greatly enhanced the worship experience. In 2013 Paul Colba aided in the addition of a walk-draw curtain to encircle the worship platform during the week, and he and Bill Klein constructed a permanent sound booth which greatly reduced the weekly setup to only chairs and tables.

To the glory of our gracious God, under Bill Klein's gifted worship leadership and the dedication of *Audience of One*, this worship ministry blessed scores of families and individuals in worship and praise to our Savior. CrossLife went into the community for worship on occasion including Rhodes Ferry Park on the river and at Point Mallard Park. There was continued growth in CrossLife attendance averaging 79-111 from 2007-2012, matching the average attendance for 8:15 and 10:45 worship in the Sanctuary, truly serving as a 3rd worship service for the congregation. Other band members were added as others left to include Andrew Poe, Christen Bradley, Paul Colba, and Selena Salgado, A/V techs included Jacob Cantrell and Jacob Morgan, as well as others who also served in *Audience of One* and those who continue to serve behind the scenes. Jane Burrell continues to ensure a worshipful setting with décor.

After Bill Klein retired from leading worship, newly-called Pastor Kretzschmar felt it vital to continue the CrossLife worship ministry and became its new worship leader, guitarist, and vocalist. Christen Bradley remained as drummer and Steve O'Shea joined the worship band on guitar; several students from Oakwood College as well as Laura Frasher Tuttle and Mark Blaske have served as keyboardists. Nikki, Kody, and Ty Asher facilitated setup and takedown from 2018-2024. During the pandemic in 2020-2021, Pastor and the band determinedly led the continuance of worship during our drive-in service aided by the elders and other volunteers. Currently, Tim Herfurth and James Gilchrist arrange for rotating volunteers for A/V and host family serving opportunities, and the elders oversee the setup.

CrossLife worship hosts the Children's Christmas program, and Preschool Graduations, Thanksgiving and Christmas programs, and Afterschool KTT and previous Boys & Girls Club programs, Vacation Bible School, and even Voters meetings and special church-wide gatherings have utilized the stage and A/V. To God be the Glory!

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.

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 Carrisdale Street.
1968	St. Paul's congregation moves to Carrisdale 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 nd 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.

PASTORS SHALL
GOD'S LOVE
SERVE



WITH ALL PEOPLE

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Color this page and tape to Pastor's office door!

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

www.StPaulsDec.com
www.Facebook.com/StPaulsDec

▲ Tribute to Lutheran Music

Why do Lutherans sing what they sing? Is there such a thing as a "Lutheran" hymn?" What makes Lutheran music unique?

These questions and more will be answered at our Tribute to Lutheran Music which will be presented between services on **September 29**. Please join us in the sanctuary as we explore the rich history of Lutheran music presented in music and song by our musicians and choir.



**This is something you won't
want to miss!**

One Worship Service
Sunday, October 6
10:45am in the
sanctuary



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

5:30 - 7:00PM

Host a Trunk

Bring your Family

Food & Candy

Lots of FUN!!!