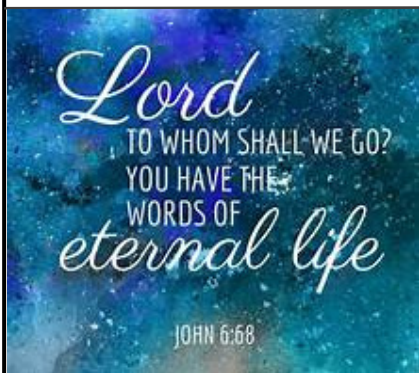


# St. Paul's Epistle

"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,

How important to you is it that our Savior is in your life? How much does it mean to you that Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead? How great have been the blessings of our Lord, spiritually, knowing that you belong to Him now on this earth, and one day you will live with Him in heaven? How has the new life that you have been given through faith in Christ made all the difference as you live amid the challenges of this fallen world? As you consider these questions, I know that for you, who are taking the time to read this newsletter, the obvious answer is that Jesus Christ means everything to you.

In August, as summer break comes to an end and a new school year starts, we will begin a four-week journey reflecting on the incredible significance of Christ in our lives. And as I emphasize in sermons that Christ is our Reconciler, our Deliverer, our Liberator, and our Illuminator, not only will you be blessed by the Word of God, but hopefully those you have brought with you or invited to church will be eternally blessed as well. Yes, that's right, this will be an opportunity for you to bring, or to lead, others to join us for worship, in-person, online or by radio, that together we may consider the astounding difference that Jesus makes.

For our worship series *Christ In My Life* below are the dates, the specific emphases, and the Scriptures passages we will focus on.

Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – *Christ, My Reconciler* (2 Corinthians 5:19-21)

Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – *Christ, My Deliverer* (Acts 16:25-34)

Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – *Christ, My Liberator* (John 8:31-32)

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – *Christ, My Illuminator* (Isaiah 60:1-7)

And I have to be honest. While I was planning to do a worship series at the start of the school year to spark interest, that individuals and families might return to worship with great commitment, I ended up scrapping my original plan. For the Lord put on my heart to do something fundamental, foundational, essential. And the more I thought about it I realized that this also meant something evangelistic, because as we approach our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary here at St. Paul's we recognize that the Good News of Jesus Christ is what our Christian fellowship is all about. The saving Gospel is the reason that we exist as a congregation. And Christ in our lives not only makes us, personally, who we are, but we are alive with real unending Life only because Christ is in us (John 1:4; 1 John 4:4).

But what about those around us? What about those around you? Are the people in your family, among your friends, in your neighborhood, or at your work growing in Christ who is the True Life? Is Christ really in their lives, or is He just someone that they hear and think about occasionally? Indeed, I am certain that you know people who need to hear the Good News of Christ that the Holy Spirit might work faith in their hearts, moving them then to grow in God's Word (John 1:12-14).

So will you pray with me? Will you pray for those who don't know Christ at all, or are not growing in God's Word in a Christian congregation? And then will you either bring them, or invite them, to our church? Today, there are many people who don't regularly attend any church. But it is only through the Gospel, in Word and Sacrament, that Christ comes into our lives and sustains us in Life eternal (John 6:63). For Jesus Christ is the One with the words of eternal life (John 6:68).

In Christ our Savior,

*Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar*

## August 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

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

#### Book of Exodus Bible Study

Wednesdays 6:15pm

### Looking Ahead

Nancy Neuendorf retirement

Celebration, Sunday, July 30

First day of Preschool

August 3

#### Elders' Porch Visits

August 6

#### Rally Day, August 13

#### FaithLinks Dinners resume

August 16

#### Confirmation begins

August 16

### 2023 Theme

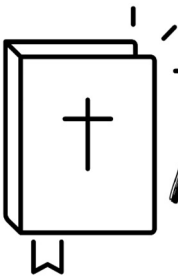
"Through the years,  
the Lord is faithful!"

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

Psalm 100:5

GOD CAN USE  
YOUR INVITE  
TO BRING  
... OTHERS ...  
TO JESUS

LIVE IN SUCH A  
WAY THAT THOSE  
WHO KNOW YOU  
BUT  
DON'T KNOW GOD  
WILL COME  
TO KNOW GOD  
BECAUSE  
THEY KNOW YOU.



# Notes from Miss Skylar



St. Paul's Family,

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. Psalm 29:2 NIV*

August is a busy month as students are going back to school and here at St. Paul's we will be beginning our Fall activities! Which makes this time of the year so exciting!

Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have Rally Day which officially kicks off our Fall Programming! During Rally Day we will have a backpack and teacher blessing at both services. During Sunday School for our children, we will have a special Sunday School that's set up VBS style! We will start all together with a Bible Story and then split into our classes for the bouncers and ice cream sundaes!

Then, Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be kicking off FaithLinks, our Wednesday Night activities with a meal of hotdogs at 5:30pm and then all our classes will be beginning! Children are invited to come to the ARC/Gym for a fun time with the bouncers! Then starting the next Wednesday, we will begin our time of devotions and games!

I'm so excited to begin our different Fall activities and hope you're excited too! If you would like to be a part of any of these activities, even if you don't have children, we'd love to have you! And if you're interested in volunteering with either Sunday School or FaithLinks please let me know!

God's Blessings,  
Skylar Smith, DCE



FAITHLINK ACTIVITIES HAPPENING EVERY WEDNESDAY:  
DINNER - 5:30PM - FELLOWSHIP ROOM  
CONFIRMATION CLASS - 6:15PM - YAC  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES - 6:15PM - ARC/GYM  
YOUTH GROUP - 6:15PM - HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ROOM  
NURSERY - 6:15PM - RM 101  
BIBLE STUDY - 6:15PM - RM 317



Join us Sunday, August 13th,  
for Rally Day at St. Paul's!

Backpack and Teacher Blessing at both services!  
Special Children's Sunday School at 9:30am  
VBS Style Sunday School with stations each class will rotate between! There will be a Bible Lesson, Music, Bouncers, and Ice Cream Sundaes!

## THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

Saturday, August 26th | 6:30pm  
To receive information and reminders  
text "@yaanchor" to 81010

### Enduring Faith

#### August Sunday School Lessons

- 8/6 - The Wise King: Solomon Prays for Wisdom
- 8/13 - Rally Day
- 8/20 - The Unwise Wise King: Solomon Builds the Temple
- 8/27 - Provided-For Prophet: God Provides for Elijah

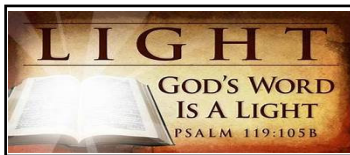
### Bible Reading Challenge

August - Made to Worship

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: Psalm 96:1-2          | Day 17: Daniel 3:8-18      |
| Day 2: 1 Chronicles 16:23-31 | Day 18: Psalm 66:4         |
| Day 3: Deuteronomy 8         | Day 19: Psalm 96:9         |
| Day 4: Deuteronomy 10:21     | Day 20: Isaiah 12:5        |
| Day 5: Jeremiah 20:13        | Day 21: Psalm 71:8         |
| Day 6: Psalm 75:1            | Day 22: Daniel 2:20        |
| Day 7: Psalm 71:8            | Day 23: Psalm 150:6        |
| Day 8: Psalm 99:1-9          | Day 24: Matthew 6:24       |
| Day 9: Deuteronomy 29:18     | Day 25: John 4:21-24       |
| Day 10: 1 Samuel 15: 22      | Day 26: Romans 12:1-2      |
| Day 11: Isaiah 29:13         | Day 27: Hebrews 12:28-29   |
| Day 12: Psalm 29:1-11        | Day 28: Revelation 14:7    |
| Day 13: Nehemiah 9:5-6       | Day 29: Colossians 3:16-17 |
| Day 14: Psalm 86:9-10        | Day 30: Hebrews 13:15      |
| Day 15: 2 Kings 17:38-39     | Day 31: Revelation 4:8-11  |
| Day 16: Psalm 100:1-5        |                            |

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

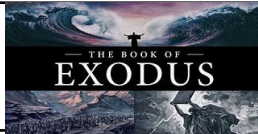
Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Skylar!

**The Gospel of Matthew**



**Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

Wednesday nights beginning at 6:00 pm in Room 317. Please join us!



**Sunday Morning Bible Study**

9:30 am Room 317

Join us for a interesting and lively discussions



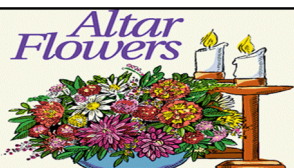
**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study**

**The Revolution of Faith**

Join us Sunday mornings, beginning August 13, at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Room, for a six-week study on the book of Acts as we consider the "revolution of faith" recorded within its pages. We will trace the growth of the early church from one man (Jesus), to twelve men (the disciples), to ultimately the ends of the earth, encompassing 2.4 billion believers today. Together we will also learn the part that we play in this revolution, and how God calls us to serve Christ and share His love and His Word in the world.



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



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

**Save the Date!**  
CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS

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

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



Meet us in room 316 every Thursday at 11am. Bring a friend!

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 125<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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*



**TRAINING** CPR class signup

We are working on getting a FREE class to learn CPR conducted by the Decatur Fire Department at the Flint Creek training facility. Dates have not been determined yet, but we are thinking it will be in August depending on the level of interest. If you are interested, please sign up below, and you will be contacted with details and preferred dates.

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# August 2023

† denotes Holy Communion celebrated during Worship

Church Nursery 8:00am - Noon on Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
<b>30</b> 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Retirement recognition for Nancy Neuendorf 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	<b>31</b> 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F)	<b>1</b> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 10:30am 125th Anniversary Committee Meeting	<b>2</b> 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Adult Bible study 7:15pm Praise band	<b>3</b> 1st day of school 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:15am Traditional Worship & FL† 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	<b>7</b> 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)	<b>8</b> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education Board 7:00pm Vestry	<b>9</b> 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 7:15pm Praise band	<b>10</b> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 2:00pm KTT "Be U" event
<b>13</b> <b>Rally Day</b> 8:15am Traditional Worship & FL 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	<b>14</b> 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	<b>15</b> <i>Newsletter deadline</i> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Preschool Board 7:30pm Fellowship Board	<b>16</b> 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks meal 6:00pm Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation 7:15pm Praise band	<b>17</b> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Sermon Series "Jesus in my life" 8:15am Traditional Worship & FL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	<b>21</b> 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	<b>22</b> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders	<b>23</b> 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks meal 6:00pm Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation 7:15pm Praise band	<b>24</b> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Young Adult Event
<b>27</b> Sermon Series "Jesus in my life" 8:15am Traditional Worship & FL 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	<b>28</b> 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	<b>29</b> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting	<b>30</b> 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks meal 6:00pm Adult Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation 7:15pm Praise band	<b>31</b> 8:30 9:30 &11 Exercise Class 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



## August birthdays

Aug 1 Tristan Ringers  
Aug 3 Denise Thrasher  
Aug 6 Karin Burtram  
Aug 6 Tammy Corlew  
Aug 7 Jeanna Stephens  
Aug 8 Noa Becerra  
Aug 8 Jeanine Compton  
Aug 8 Mike Parson  
Aug 8 Michelle Smitherman  
Aug 10 Drew Reichenbach  
Aug 10 Brayden Wright  
Aug 12 Terry Raemhild  
Aug 13 Farrah Locker  
Aug 13 Maribeth Morgan  
Aug 15 PJ Corlew  
Aug 16 Heather Braswell  
Aug 16 James Frick  
Aug 17 Pedro Santaliz  
Aug 19 Heather Atkins  
Aug 19 Don Olson  
Aug 22 Randy Blevins  
Aug 23 Katelyn Kimmett

Aug 24 Greg Armentrout  
Aug 24 Faye Atkins  
Aug 24 Elesia Reinhardt  
Aug 25 Darius Burch  
Aug 25 Shawn Holder  
Aug 25 Vickie Sautter  
Aug 25 Regina Smith  
Aug 26 Dean Byer  
Aug 26 Simon Love  
Aug 26 Skylar Schmelter  
Aug 27 Doug Anderson  
Aug 28 Del Davis  
Aug 28 Dan Jones  
Aug 28 Liam McNa  
Aug 29 Mercedes Ferguson  
Aug 29 James Gilchrist  
Aug 29 Ron Johnson  
Aug 31 Liam Cevallos

*God's Blessings  
on your  
Special Day!*



Aug 1 Rich & Donna Maschke  
Aug 2 Jeff & Leesa Pittman  
Aug 5 Bob & Sue Sullivant  
Aug 18 Brian & Michele Braswell  
Aug 18 Drew & Rebecca Reichenbach



Sunday, September 17 the LWML will be holding their annual Bratwurst Oktoberfest immediately following the 10:45 Worship service. This year there will be a Silent Auction during the lunch. Please put this on your calendar. More details to come.

The auction will include gift baskets and other items of interest. If you have an interesting item you would be willing to donate for the auction, we would love talk to you. Point of contact, Melinda Baker. 256-686-2134.



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

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
<b>Elders</b>	8:15am Joseph Woodbury	Bill Darwin	Tim Nave	Mickey Whiteside
<b>Ushers</b>	8:15am Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Mike Ater Bob Seibert	Graham Peebles James Thrasher Michael Kimmett Mathew Kimmett	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Micky Whiteside Mike Widmar
<b>Acolytes</b>	8:15am Owen	Katelyn	Emma	Owen
<b>A/V Techs</b>	8:15am Bob Sullivant	Bob Sullivant	Rick Maschke	Bob Sullivant
<b>Readers</b>	8:15am Jeff Pittman	Rhonda Reece	Nancy Neuendorf	Luke Frasher
<b>Sanctuary Flowers</b>	Bob & Sue Sullivant	Open	Rich & Donna Maschke	Open

**Altar Guild for August: Melinda Baker and Melanie McNa     Counters for August: Leesa Pittman and Don Olson**

<b>Elders</b>	10:45am Gary Nagy	Tim Herfurth	Ron Fritze	Roy Weiland
<b>Host families</b>	0:45am Herfurth family	McRae family	Morgan family	Atkins family
<b>A/V Techs</b>	10:45am Rick & Carol Morgan	James Gilchrist	Tim Herfurth	Mike Ringers



## 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    127  
Facebook sign-ins        14



**Current Loan**

**Balance: \$229,917**

## Financial Plan Activity thru June 30, 2023

YTD FirstFruits Giving:    \$ 229,677    **PLAN: \$225,000**  
YTD Total Expenses:       - \$ 208,801    **PLAN: \$212,227**  
*Plan Activity thru June*     \$ 20,876

**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](http://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**

Se 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!



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.

# St Paul's Lutheran Preschool Summer Fun 2023



Summer program ends July 28th.

St. Paul's Preschool 2023-2024 school year begins August 3, 2023.

St. Paul's Preschool 2023-2024 Orientation and Meet the Teachers is on Tuesday, July 25th at 6:00 p.m.

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

CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS

**St. Paul's is Celebrating its  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
October 8, 2023**

*Ron Fritze and Beth Hornish have been  
leading us through our history in  
preparation for this grand celebration.*

*Previous articles may be found at [www.StPaulsDec.com](http://www.StPaulsDec.com)*

**A Twist to the West:  
Old St. Paul's Gets Remodeled**

"Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps:  
set thine heart toward the highway,  
even the way thou wentest: turn again,  
O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities."

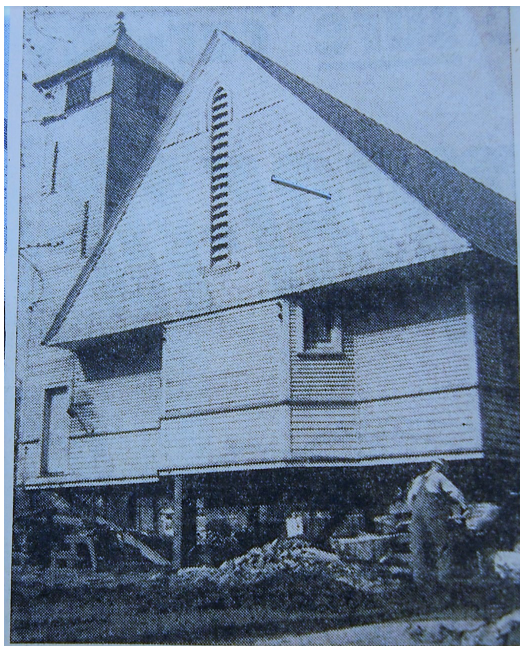
Jeremiah 31, v. 21 (KJV)

When World War II ended, the Great Depression was a thing of the past. The United States, along with Decatur and Morgan County were poised for growth and prosperity. In 1940, Morgan County's population was 48,000 and by 1950 it has increased almost ten percent to 53,000. The city of Decatur's population growth was even more impressive. Its population in 1940 was 16,600 which by 1950 had grown to 20,000, an increase of 20%.

The congregation of St. Paul's was also growing during the 1940s under the leadership of its pastors: Emil Tonn, Walter Schoech, and Robert Maschke. When Pastor Maschke accepted a call to Wisconsin in 1950, he was replaced by a recent seminary graduate. The newly minted Pastor Paul Krohn accepted the call from St. Paul's and would go on to serve the church for over a decade until 1961.

By the time Pastor Krohn arrived, the church building had been in use for over fifty years. During Pastor Schoech's ministry, the congregation recognized that they needed to renovate and expand the church's facilities. So, in 1945 a building fund was established and planning began. Shortly before Pastor Krohn's arrival, the Building Committee in the spring of 1950 hired the architect Thomas Gardiner of Nashville to design the remodeled church. It had been decided to add a basement to provide recreational facilities, classrooms, and a kitchen.

The church's lot was triangular shaped with Sherman Street to the north and Gordon Drive to the South with the point ending on Fourth Street when Sherman and Gordon came together. At that time the front of the church faced Sherman Street which was and remains its physical address. Since the north-south dimension of the lot was too narrow for adding a basement, that necessitated raising the church building and turning it ninety degrees to face Fourth Street and have enough room for the basement. Raising the church also meant some of the basement walls would be above ground and allowed for a walk-in door on the south side of the repositioned building.



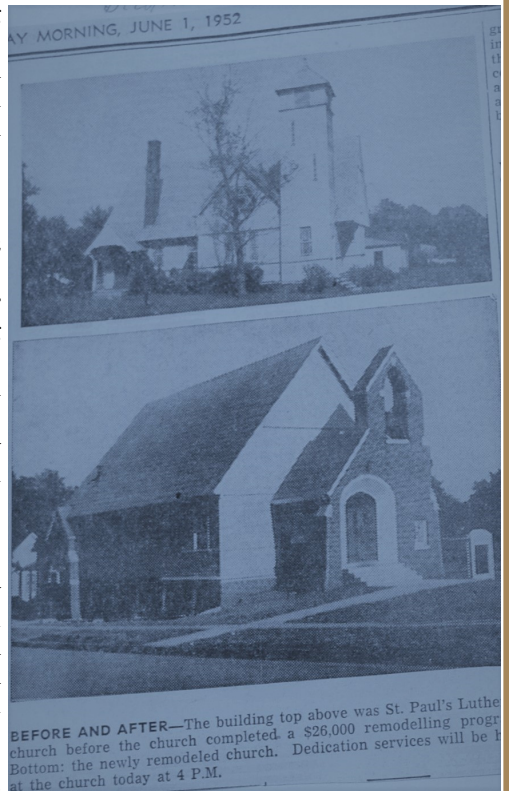
CHURCH ON STILTS—St. Paul's Lutheran church was on stilts today

The original main entrance to the church, however, was located on the west side of the church that faced Fourth Street. Part of the renovation involved putting the main entrance at the end of the church. So after the church was turned, its main entrance continued to face Fourth Street.

On 16 February 1951, the Building Committee signed a contract with Elton H. Reeves, a Decatur contractor. His crew arrived on 23 March to begin the process of lifting and turning the church. The congregation had one last service in the building on 25 March at which time the church was already without lighting and heating. During the time the turning and renovating took place, the congregation held services at the nearby armory. Pastor Krohn was understandably nervous about the church building being damaged during the turning. Mr. Reeves, the contractor, assured Pastor Krohn that everything would go smoothly.

In fact, he stated that if the church bell rang even once, he would give fifty dollars to Pastor Krohn. Reeves did not have to pay up. The bell never rang. The turning of the church was definitely an attention getter. The Decatur Daily carried several stories about the remodeling.

The work was completed fairly quickly and services resumed in the remodeled church on 9 September 1951. The whole process took place a bit over five months at the cost of \$26,000.



By the way, the remodel did not include the addition of air conditioning. It was not until 1955 that the congregation established a committee to investigate the need for and the congregation's desire for air conditioning. The committee sought pledges from the congregation to pay for the improvement. Apparently, the desire was there since they were successful in securing an adequate number of pledges. A new heating and cooling system was installed during May 1957. We can assume that the attendance at services during the summer probably picked up.

St. Paul's moved to its current location on Carridale Street in 1968 and the old church has had several other groups use it as a place of worship. To this day, the old church on Sherman Street remains a lovely building with its dignified sanctuary and welcoming fellowship facilities, kitchen, and nursery in the basement. But St. Paul's continued to grow and that growth required space that was not available at Sherman Street. Look for the story of the move to Carridale Street in a future essay.

*Ron Fritze and Beth Hornish*

*more pictures  
on last page*

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

[www.StPaulsDec.com](http://www.StPaulsDec.com)  
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**Sunday**  
**August 13 at 9:30**



**Wednesday**  
**Night**  
**Dinners**  
**resume August 16 at 5:30**

**A Twist to the West: Old St. Paul's Gets Remodeled** *(continued from page 7)*

