

"St. Paul's Lutheran Church glorifies CELEBRATING



St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1700 Carridale Street SW Decatur AL 35601 256.353.8759 www.StPaulsDec.com



Friends in Christ,

He was alive! On that first Easter Sunday, Christ had risen from the dead! But there was one person absent as He appeared to the disciples, Thomas. And he would seems to be a skeptic from the twenty-first century, as Thomas said "Unless I see and touch. I will not believe. No way."

Doubt comes so naturally to the human mind, doesn't it? Personally, we know just how easily doubt enters in, don't we? And as we look to God's Word, the Holy Bible, we find numerous examples of the doubt of Jesus' disciples. Mary Magdalene said in John chapter 20 verse 2: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb." We read in John 20 verse 9, that it says of Peter and John: "They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead." And of all the disciples, Luke chapter 24 verse 11 tells us: "They did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense."

Doubt, immediately following Jesus' resurrection, was quite understandable, right? For Jesus was crucified. He was dead. The centurion made sure of it. Jesus was laid in a tomb-no doubt about it. And no one has ever, by his own power, risen from the grave.

Author of the well-known book On Death and Dying, Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, wrote: "Man has conquered space, he has made great technological advances, but he cannot conquer death." And that is a true enough statement, for on our own, by the power within a mere mortal individual, death is an undefeatable foe. But, because Christ in risen from the dead, we can ourselves, confident in our Savior, even stomp on the grave and say boldly with St. Paul's, as he wrote to the Corinthians, "Where, O death, is your victory?... Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57).

Sadly, though, doubt still actively robs people today of the joy of "the resurrection of the body" that Christ won for us. It is so easy for people not to believe, and therefore miss the confidence and certain hope Christ brings. People in our culture, even many unbelievers, yet believe in the spirit world and in angels. And Luke 24 verse 37 says that when the Risen Christ physically appeared to them, the disciples themselves "were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost."

But Jesus makes clear at His appearing that His body is a real, glorified, physical body when He asks the disciples to "touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have" (Luke 24:39). And for final proof Jesus even eats a piece of broiled fish (Luke 24:43). Obviously a spirit does not consume food. Yes, death is totally defeated with the bodily resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

In the month of April, during the seven week season of Easter, we truly celebrate that Jesus is alive! And because He lives, we know with certainty that our sins are forgiven, and we shall live.

Absolutely, we know that Christ has conquered sin, death, and the devil. And trusting in Jesus, if God is for us, who can be against us? So do not doubt, but believe God's Word and rejoice this Easter season, for Jesus our Savior is indeed alive!

In Christ our Risen Lord,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar



April 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 pril 7, 21

Staffed Nursery 8am until noon

Sunday Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study Sundays 9:30am Pastor's Bible Study 9:45am

Weekday Bible Studies

Wednesday Luke: 10:30 **Revelation Bible Study** Wednesdays 6:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Thursday, April 4 & 18 Men's Bible Study & Breakfast Saturday, April 27 at 9:30am

Looking Ahead

Preschool Sunday April 14, 10:45am

Movie Night-"Jesus Revolution" Sunday, April 14, 6pm

> HS Youth Yard Sale Saturday, April 20, 7am-?

> > **Voters Meeting** April 28, 9:30am

Preschool Moms & Muffins May 2, 7-9am

> **Confirmation Oral Exam** May 3 **Rite of Confirmation** May 5

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 gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)

Notes from Miss Skylar



St. Paul's Family,

Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the

resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," 1 Peter 1:3

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Did you know that Easter isn't just a singular day? Easter is to be celebrated everyday because everyday we live in God's promise of eternal life in heaven because of Jesus' death and resurrection. So live everyday in remembrance of the empty grave when Jesus

defeated death for our sake.

Through this celebration we want to share the Good News and love of Jesus with everyone we meet. One of the many ways we are doing this at St. Paul's is through our VBS in the summer! And I would love to have you and your child be a part of this fun

opportunity of diving into friendship with God at SCUBA VBS

June 24-28th! Talk to me if you would like to volunteer in any way. And don't forget to register your child, you can scan the QR Code on this page or fill out a paper form which can be found by my office or in the narthex!

God's Blessings, Skylar Smith, DCE





April 20th at 6:30pm | Game Night To receive information and reminders text "@yaanchor" to 81010



You're Invited! June 24th-28th, 2024 | 9-12pm

Scan to register today!





April Sunday School Lessons

4/7 - A Water Wonder: Jesus Walks on Water
4/14 - A Mountaintop Wonder: Jesus' Transfiguration
4/21 - Mission Wonders: Jesus Sends the Seventy-Two
4/28 - A Welcome Truth: Mary and Martha



Youth Yard Sale April 20th | 7-12pm The high school youth will be holding a yard sale on April 20th. Please start collecting those items you would like to donate! You can drop off your items in the ARC beginning Sunday, April 14th, after CrossLife! If you have any questions, contact Heather Asher or Skylar.



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: Colossians 3:1-2
Day 2: Hebrews 12:1-2
Day 3: James 5:7-8
Day 4: 1 Peter 1:3-4
Day 5: 1 Peter 1:5-7
Day 6: 1 Peter 1:8-9
Day 7: 1 Peter 1:13-15
Day 8: 1 Peter 1:23
Day 9: Isaiah 40:6-8
Day 10: 1 Timothy 6:12-14
Day 11: 1 Corinthians 15:58
Day 12: Rom 13:11-12, 14
Day 13: Philippians 4:8
Day 14: Philippians 4:5
Day 15: Matthew 16:23

Day 16: 2 Cor 4:17-18 Day 17: Romans 12:2 Day 18: Romans 8:5-6 Day 19: 1 John 3:2-3 Day 20: 1 Peter 4:12-13 Day 21: John 14:1-3 Day 22: 1 Peter 4:7 Day 23: Romans 5:3-5 Day 24: Romans 5:5 Day 25: 2 Corinthians 5:1 Day 26: 1 John 2:15-16 Day 27: 1 John 2:17 Day 28: Matthew 6:21 Day 29: Philippians 3:13-14 Day 30: Hebrews 11:1

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!

Power of the Spirit

REVELATION

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



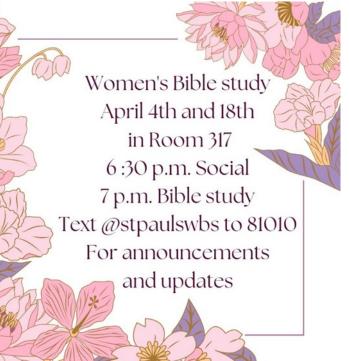
Christian faith as: Who is this Jesus? What does He expect of me? Is suffering a normal part of the Christian life? And what will encourage and strengthen my trust in Jesus? These questions are not born of a lack of faith but serve to strengthen and stabilize our relationship with the Savior. Join us, and open your heart and mind as Mark's Gospel reveals what it means to follow Jesus.

Kairos Network Missional Program: The Missionary Pathway

What is the Missionary Pathway? The Kairos Missionary Pathway is about releasing everyday believers to plant the gospel and make disciples in the places they live, work, learn and play. In this 8-session training we will walk you through the tools you need to be an everyday missionary in the places you are already going.

How does it work?

The video at <u>https://thekairosnetwork.com/</u> will share the "why" and the "how" behind the Kairos Network missionary pathway. If you sign up for the training join in with a community of people in the Southern District LCMS who are in the training as well by connecting with a cohort. This will give you the support of a community of people who are learning how to live on mission where they live, work, learn and play.



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY, ROOM 317

We are studying from the LCMS Discipleship Bible study series. The purpose of this series is to help Christians dig into Scripture to explore some of the primary teachings of Christ Jesus. That's how disciples are made—by the power of His Word. The 4 sessions in ASK, SEEK, KNOCK: Take It to the Lord in Prayer, are on: The Power to Pray, Trusting His Answer, Praying with One Will, Your Prayers Matter. There is no cost.

Here is the next Missionary Pathway Partner Cohort link and dates <u>https://</u> <u>thekairosnet-</u> work.thinkific.com/ <u>courses/2024partnercohort3</u>

2024 Partner Cohort 3

Orientation - April 2 -2:00pm central

Session 01 - April 9 - 2:00pm central

Session 02 - April 23 -2:00pm central

Session 03 - May 14 -2:00pm central

Session 04 - May 28 -2:00pm central

Session 05 - June 11 - 2:00pm central

Session 06 - June 25 -



Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, April 27 at 9:30am



Adult Confirmation Class

Wednesdays at 8pm

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

April 2024

+ denotes Holy Communion celebrated during Worship

Church Nursery 8:00am - Noon on Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
31 Easter 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Easter Breakfast 9:45am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary		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
7 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	9 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education meeting 7:00pm Vestry meeting	10 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 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	11 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Fellowship board meeting	12	13 1:00pm KTT "Be U" event
14 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship 10:45am Preschool Sunday 6:00pm Movie night - Jesus Revolution	15 Newsletter deadline 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-)	16 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Preschool Board meeting	17 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 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	18 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	19 No KTT Yard sale set up/	20 7:00am HS Youth Yard Sale 6:30pm Young Adult Game Night
21 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 12:00pm VBS Volunteer Meeting 5:00pm HS Youth Night	8:45am Preschool (M-Th)	23 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting	24 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 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	25 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	26	27 9:30am Men's Bible study breakfast
28 8:00am Nursery open 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Voters meeting 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	29 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	30 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting	1 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study / 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	2 7-9am PS Moms & Muffins 8:30 9:30&11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	3	4



- Apr 1 Lisa Miller Apr 1 Rhonda Reece Apr 2 MeyMey Baker Apr 2 Nancy Whiteside Apr 3 Miranda Jordan Apr 3 **Becky Ballentine** Apr 6 **Tracy Stoudnour** Apr 6 James Thrasher Apr 9 Becky King Apr 12 **Kellye Jones** Apr 12 Britt McRae Apr 13 Nell McMinn
- Apr 15 Sierra Bauer
- Apr 18 Kathy Sautter

- Apr 18 Jo Whetsel
- Apr 19 Pastor Kretzschmar
- Apr 19 Michael Ringers Apr 19 Leann Thompson
- Apr 20 Pam Newton
- Apr 21 Craig Faller
- Apr 22 Jerry Morris
- Apr 24 Jennifer Frick
- Apr 24 Ariel Holway-Jones
- Apr 24 Parker Smith
- Apr 25 Michael Kimmett Apr 26 Bryce Carroll
- Apr 27 Mary Kay Hodges
- Apr 27 Raymond Asher
- Apr 29 Jackson McCay
- Apr 29 Carol Bullen





Mark your calendars now for the spring Voters Meeting

Sunday, April 28



Apr 2Devin & Christina SchmelterApr 6Mike & Nell McMinnApr 9John & Regina SmithApr 13Jason & Wendy DuffeyApr 13Ron & Twylia FritzeApr 20Doug & Amy HamiltonApr 24Kent & Farrah LockerApr 24Conner & MeyMey BakerApr 28Doug & Vicki AndersonApr 30Randy & Karin Burtram

God's Blessings on your Special Day!

	Serv	ing the Lord in	Worship this	Month at St.	Paul's
		April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Elders	8:15am	Mitchell Whiteside	Mike Johnson	Joseph Woodbury	Bill Darwin
Ushers	8:15am	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Micky Whiteside Mike Widmar	Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Mike Ater Bob Seibert Mike Johnson	Graham Peebles James Thrasher Michael Kimmett Mathew Kimmett
Acolytes	8:15am	Owen / Oliver	Emma / Ben	Katelyn	Owen
A/V Techs	8:15am	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant
Readers	8:15am	Jeff Pittman	open	Nancy Neuendorf	Luke Frasher
Sanctuary Flowers Open		Open	Open	Open	
Altar Guild fo	r April: Melinda	Carlson and Leesa Pittman	Counters for April: Ti	m Herfurth and Beth Hornish	
Elders	10:45am	Tim Herfurth	Roy Weiland	Tim Herfurth Gary Nagy	
Host families	10:45am	Burrell family	Herfurth family	McRae family	Morgan family
A/V Techs	10:45am	Rick & Carol Morgan	James Gilchrist	Mike Ringers	Tim Herfurth



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



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



Bring the family for a fun movie night Sunday, April 14 at 6pm.



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



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



2023 Year-to-Date Average AttendanceIn-church attendees119Facebook sign-ins14



Current Loan Balance: \$218,039 Endowment Fund Balance: \$13,852

Financial Plan Activity thru February 29, 2024

YTD FirstFruits Giving: YTD Total Expenses: *Plan Activity thru Dec*

\$ 65,441 PLAN: \$75,000 - <u>\$ 89,941</u> PLAN: \$82,382 - \$ 24,500

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 <u>least safe</u> way to donate.*

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

- go to the <u>website</u>,
- snap the QR code,
- download the Mobile app, or
- contact the Church Office for a paper authorization form.



Secure Giving at www.StPaulsDec.com



is greatly encouraged!

Online Giving





NEW TO THE LIBRARY

New books coming into the Library include: All the Women of the Bible by Edith Deen, Books of the Old Testament (a classic by LCMS's Stünkel), 2 Women's Bible Study Devotional A New Song (I Have set my King on Zion and Planted by Streams of Water), The Case for Heaven by Strobel, and The Genesis Flood (a classic by Whitcomb and Morris). Check these and other new arrivals on the desk in the Library (one of St. Paul's best kept secrets).



ST. PAUL'S IS A COMMUNITY

We aim to be a place of identity and belonging, being heard and cared for and known.

The desire to belong to a community that gives us our identity and cares for us is a longing of every human heart. Yet people aren't sure of where that place is. Jesus draws people to Himself, and they find not only identity and connection, and belonging in Him, but they also find it in His church. –from Connected to Christ: Overcoming Isolation through Community by Pastor Brian K Davies (2021: CPH).

In mEmORY
DONNA G. SMITH
1950 - 2020St 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 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.



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.



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



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

For more information contact Pete Alvis at 256.616.1774.



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!



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 Leave a 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!

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.

You're Invited to

FAITHLINKS!

Wednesdays Dinner at 5:30pm

Classes start at 6:00pm⁺

St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool 2023-2024





































This month is all about Spring

March is sponsored by the number <u>8</u> and the color purple.

This month the children will learn about plants and habitats. The shape of the month is oval and we will review our letters. Our Bible stories and study will be Jesus' Ascension, Paul's Conversion, David and Jonathan and Jesus Heals A Crippled Man.



Join us Sunday, April 14 for Preschool Sunday.

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























Afterschool Care

Competition at its Best



Congratulations to these amazing group of children who sold over 140 tickets. Amongst this group are two over achievers. Andrew Elliott sold 53 and Ashton Grisby sold 47. All of you guys are true WINNERS!









And the Vinners are...

A special thank you to St. Paul's members for so generously supporting our Swamp John's fundraiser. We would also like to thank all the volunteers that helped make our event a success. We raised \$1538.00 not including the raffle tickets.





Thanks Pastor Kretzschmar for calling our Raffle ticket winner, Shica Jones Johnson out. Who by the way, started to turn around when she saw the crowd.



Summer Camp

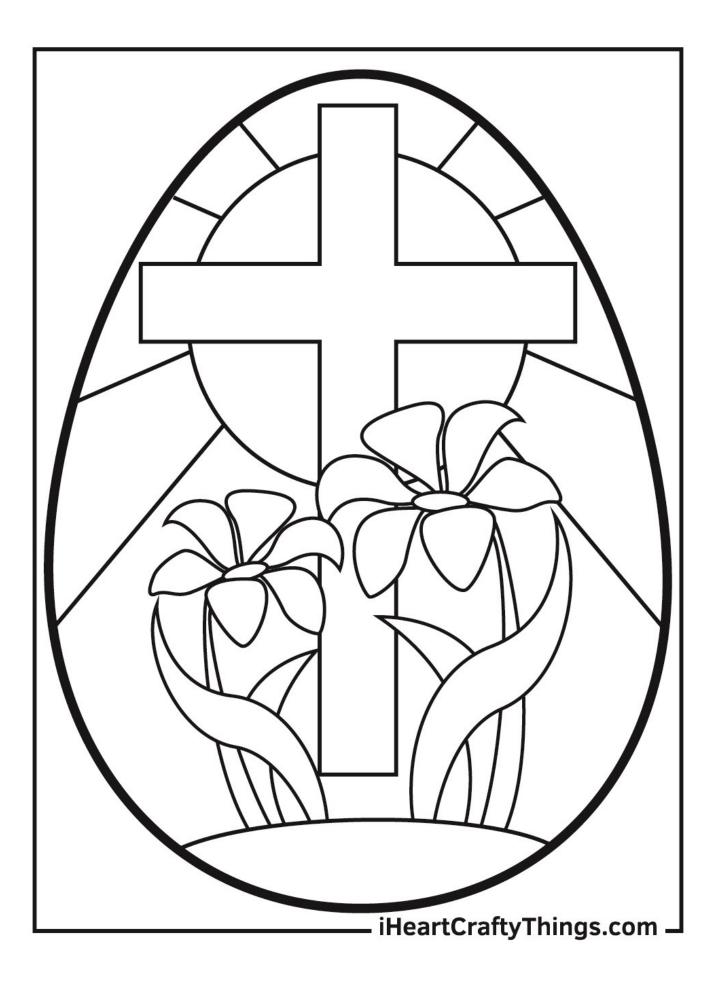
Registration is in progress. A \$75.00 nonrefundable deposit will hold your spot. Spaces are limited!

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/



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

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



Put this on your calendar!

Family Movie Night

Sunday, April 14

at 6:00 pm!

Invite your friends and join us!



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."

If you want to replay a message, simply call (877) 357-3575 and it will play the last message sent!

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



churchoffice@stpaulsdec.com

Calling All Thrivent Members!!! Dírect your Thrivent Choice Dollars

Today!



You can see the number of Choice Dollars[®] 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[®] or call 800-847-4836.

The deadline to direct 2023 Choice Dollars^{\mathbb{R}} is March 31.