

# 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



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Word of the Lord endures forever (Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 2:25). God's Word will never perish, never cease to be. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). In fact, the Word of God is all that we can truly count on in this life. Jesus Himself is the Word made flesh (John 1:14). We can count on Christ in every circumstance, for He has brought us the forgiveness of sins through the cross, and He promises to be with us always in all that we go through and face (Matthew 28:20). All of Scripture points to Jesus (Luke 24:27). In Christ is life, and that life is the light of all people (John 1:4).

What a blessing it is to gather each week to be in the Word of God in worship—to hear, to read, to inwardly digest God's revelation of Himself to mankind. How wonderful that we have the freedom to gather together publicly, as well as the ability to study the Scriptures on our own. And we take for granted that we can hear and read God's Word in our own language.

While we Americans enjoy the ease with which we can access the Holy Scriptures, there are parts of the world today where the Bible still has not been translated into the language of the people. As Lutheran Christians, we are aware that our heritage and identity rests in large part on the Bible being accessible in the language that we understand best, English. Martin Luther translated God's Word into German, from the original Greek and Hebrew, so that his people could understand God's revelation of love and mercy in Christ. And today, through groups like Lutheran Bible Translators, the Word of the Lord is being brought to people through the translation efforts of people such as Amy Formella.

Amy Formella visited St. Paul's in 2019 to introduce us to her work of Bible translation in Sierra Leone with the Mende Bible Translation team. She serves as a Technical Advisor, assisting the team by training, proofreading, being involved with team checking, and advising on the process of the translation project. On Sunday, September 10th, we will be blessed to have Amy join us to give a presentation during the Sunday School hour, starting at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary. She will provide an overview of her efforts, and give an update on her work since we last saw her. Truly, it is remarkable work, and we will be blessed to have her join us once again. So please mark your calendars, as you won't want to miss her sharing about her eternity changing work of the Lord for the Mende and Themne language communities.

Yes, the Word of the Lord endures forever. And as Isaiah says, "as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11). God uses people to share His Word. He uses you and me, and He uses Bible translators like Amy Formella. So, again, please join us on the 10th at 9:30 AM, to hear about this special work that God is doing, and I know that you will be blessed.

God's peace always in Christ,

*Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar*

## September 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 Sept 3 & 17**  
**Staffed Nursery 8am until noon**

**Bible Study**  
**Adult Bible Study**  
**Book of Romans**  
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

Cookbook presale Aug 27  
September 17 and 24

**September 3**  
Installation of Preschool  
Director, Bethany

**Handbells and Choir begin**  
rehearsals September  
6:00 and 7:00pm

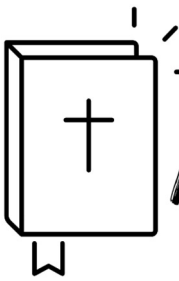
**September 10**  
**Amy Formella** from Bible  
Translators here

**September 17**  
LWML Oktoberfest, 12 noon  
Tickets on sale now

**September 21**  
Family Fun Night

**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



# Notes from Miss Skylar



St. Paul's Family,

*"so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."*

*Ephesians 3:17-19*

Happy September! It's slowly becoming Fall and I cannot wait for the cooler weather! I really love Fall because of the colors and the cool weather, also to me Fall is another time of year for new beginnings just like Spring! Last month we had Rally Day which kicked off the beginning of our Fall Sunday School and we also had our FaithLinks Kick-Off beginning all our Wednesday Night Activities for the school year.

Although we are beginning the 9th month of the year, it's not too late to begin new things, like joining in our 2023 Bible Reading Challenge! There's a new theme every month with new verses so it's easy to start or get back into the routine! This month's theme is Privileged Love. All the verses remind us of the love the God shows us, what a special reminder to have everyday this month!

We need Sunday School Teachers for our two elementary Sunday School Classes! If you are willing to teach one of these classes, please talk to me. We can work with your schedule to where you can teach as much or as little as you'd like; just one Sunday a month would be a huge help! If you don't want to commit to teaching regularly, but would fill in every now and again, talk to me so I can get you on our Sub list. Please prayerfully consider being a part of teaching our children the good news of Jesus; they're eager and ready to learn!

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



## THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

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

### Enduring Faith

September Sunday School Lessons

9/3 - Labor Day - All Together

9/10 - Consuming Fire: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

9/17 - A Whirlwind Ascent: Elijah Is Taken to Heaven

9/24 - Healing Waters: Naaman and Elisha

### Bible Reading Challenge

September - Privileged Love

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: Ephesians 3:17-19

Day 2: Isaiah 54:10

Day 3: Psalm 86:15

Day 4: 1 John 3:1

Day 5: Deuteronomy 7:7-9

Day 6: Zephaniah 3:17

Day 7: Psalm 5:11-12

Day 8: Ephesians 1:5-6

Day 9: Psalm 107:8-9

Day 10: 2 Chronicles 6:14

Day 11: Psalm 36:5-7

Day 12: Psalm 109:21

Day 13: 1 John 4:9-10

Day 14: Micah 7:18

Day 15: 1 Chronicles 16:34

Day 16: Ephesians 2:3-9

Day 17: Lam. 3:22-23

Day 18: Psalm 103

Day 19: Psalm 139:1-12

Day 20: Ephesians 1:3-8

Day 21: Hebrews 10:19-22

Day 22: Galatians 3:26-29

Day 23: Romans 5:8

Day 24: John 15:9

Day 25: John 14:21

Day 26: Romans 5:5

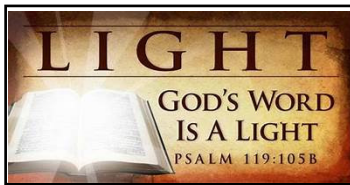
Day 27: 1 John 4:7-8

Day 28: Romans 8:31-32

Day 29: Romans 8:35-39

Day 30: Psalm 149

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

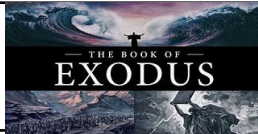
Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Skylar!

**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**

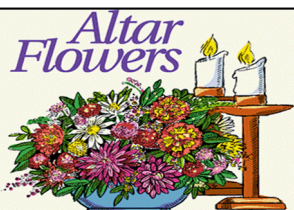
*The Revolution of Faith*

Join us Sunday mornings, 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**

**Invite a friend to join you at church**

**The Extraordinary Difference**  
**Jesus Makes**  
*A new worship series*  
**"Christ In My Life"**

**Sunday, August 20**

– *Christ, My Reconciler* (2 Corinthians 5:19-21)

**Sunday, August 27**

– *Christ, My Deliverer* (Acts 16:25-34)

**Sunday, September 3**

– *Christ, My Liberator* (John 8:31-32)

**Sunday, September 10**

- *Christ, My Illuminator* (Isaiah 60:1-7)

CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS

St. Paul's is Celebrating its  
**125th Anniversary**

**October 8, 2023**



**You're Invited to**  
**FAITHLINKS!**  
**Wednesdays Dinner**  
**at 5:30pm**  
**Classes start at 6pm**

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!



Come join the Handbell Choir Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the choir loft. Watch for new schedule in the fall



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

# September 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
27 8:15am Trad Worship & FbL 9:30am Presale Brat Dinner 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 (M-F)	29 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting	30 10am Quilting 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Bible study 6:15pm Conf 7:15pm Praise band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	31 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	1	2
3 <b>Installation of PS Director</b> 8:15am Traditional Worship FbL† 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	4 <b>Labor Day campus closed</b>	5 <b>Office closed</b> 7:00am PS Ext Care (T-F) 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 8:45am Preschool (T-Th) 2:30pm KTT (T-F)	6 10am Quilting 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Handbell 6pm Bible study 6:15pm Conf 7:00pm Choir 7:15pm Praise band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	7 PS Grandparent day 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	8	9 2:00pm KTT "Be U" event
10 8:15am Traditional Worship FbL 9:30am Amy Formella - speaker 9:30am Presale Brat Dinner 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	11 7:00am PS EC (M-F) 8:45am PS (M-Th) 10:00am LWML (mingle 9:30-10:00) 2:30pm KTT (M-F)	12 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education meeting 7:00pm Vestry meeting	13 10am Quilting 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Handbell 6pm Bible study 6:15pm Conf 7:00pm Choir 7:15pm Praise band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	14 <b>Newsletter deadline</b> 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	15	16 6:30pm Young Adult Event
17 8:15am Trad Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 12:00pm LWML <b>Oktoberfest</b> 5:00pm HS Youth Night	18 7:00am PS EC (M-F) 8:45am PS (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT (M-F)	19 Pastor circuit meeting 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am 125 <sup>th</sup> Anny Mtg 6:00pm Preschool Board 7:30pm Fellowship Bd	20 10am Quilting 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Handbell 6pm Bible study 6:15pm Conf 7:00pm Choir 7:15pm Praise band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	21 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Family fun night	22	23
24 8:00am Nursery open 8:15am Trad Worship & FbL 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	25 7:00am PS EC (M-F) 8:45am PS (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT (M-F)	26 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting	27 10am Quilting 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Handbell 6pm Bible study 6:15pm Conf 7:00pm Choir 7:15pm Praise band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	28 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	29	30



- Sept 3 Beth Hellebrand
- Sept 3 Joan Pitts
- Sept 4 David Burrell
- Sept 4 Emma Nave
- Sept 6 Jodi Hays
- Sept 6 Luna Herrarte
- Sept 7 Faith Kretschmar
- Sept 9 Darryl Mitchell
- Sept 13 Ashley Lawrence
- Sept 14 Jane Burrell
- Sept 14 Melinda Carlson
- Sept 14 Andrew Keaty
- Sept 14 Laura Frasher Tuttle
- Sept 14 Jennifer Kimmett
- Sept 14 Mike Redwanz
- Sept 15 Lamar Burch
- Sept 15 Mike Love
- Sept 18 Oliver Nave
- Sept 19 Val Blaske
- Sept 19 Mitzi Reed

- Sept 20 Dakota Bauer
- Sept 21 David Graham
- Sept 22 Nancy Neuendorf
- Sept 22 Don Riley
- Sept 24 Bill Darwin
- Sept 24 Deb Smitherman
- Sept 25 Gail Pisani
- Sept 26 Tonya Herda
- Sept 28 Larry Porter
- Sept 29 Jen Ciesielski



- Sept 4 Dean & Vanessa Byer
- Sept 4 Bruce & Pam Newton
- Sept 4 Carl & Heather Reardon
- Sept 5 Mike & Linda Holcomb
- Sept 7 Mike & Rebecca Widmar
- Sept 14 Rick & Helga Daniel
- Sept 19 Pedro & Emily Santaliz
- Sept 21 Jim & Marsha Disher
- Sept 23 Steve & Katrina Smith
- Sept 24 Roy & Joyce Weiland
- Sept 27 Craig & Melinda Baker

Dear St. Paul's family,

*I want to thank you for your support and love during Ron's illness and passing. The prayers, cards, texts, phone calls, food, and visits meant so much to both of us during this time. It's such a blessing to know that Ron is now at peace with Jesus and no longer suffering.*

*After Ron's passing your continued love and support have been an answer to prayer. The girls and I have been so blessed by all you have done. God is good and we are confident that He has a plan for my life as I move forward.*

Love in Christ,  
Nancy Neuendorf

## Lutheran Bible Translators Presentation



Amy Formella will be visiting St. Paul's Sunday, September 10 to share about her work with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) in Sierra Leone. Amy was here in 2019 and will provide an update on her efforts since that time. Please join us on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Sanctuary for a special presentation. **A free will offering will be taken.**

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

	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
<b>Elders</b> 8:15am	Bill Darwin	Tim Nave	Mickey Whiteside	Joseph Woodbury
<b>Ushers</b> 8:15am	Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Mike Ater Bob Seibert Mike Johnson	Graham Peebles James Thrasher Michael Kimmett Matthew Kimmett	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Mickey Whiteside Mike Widmar
<b>Acolytes</b> 8:15am	Katelyn	Emma	Katelyn	Owen
<b>AV Techs</b> 8:15am	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Rick Maschke	Bob Sullivant
<b>Readers</b> 8:15am	Jeff Pittman	Rhonda Reece	Nancy Neuendorf	Luke Frasher
<b>Sanctuary Flowers</b>	Open	Open	Open	Open
<b>Altar Guild for September: Val Blaske and Jennifer Kimmett</b>		<b>Counters for September: Sue Bosco and Rhonda Reece</b>		
<b>Elders</b> 10:45am	Gary Nagy	Ron Fritze	Tim Herfurth	Roy Weiland
<b>Host families</b> 10:45am	Ballentine family	Burrell family	Herfurth family	McRae Family
<b>AV Techs</b> 10:45am	Tim Herfurth	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 125  
Facebook sign-ins 14



**Current Loan**

**Balance: \$228,419**

## Financial Plan Activity thru July 31, 2023

YTD FirstFruits Giving: \$ 271,672 **PLAN: \$262,050**  
YTD Total Expenses: - \$ 242,159 **PLAN: \$247,600**  
*Plan Activity thru July* \$ 29,513

## 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



## Welcome Bethany Eze, St Paul's new Preschool Director!

Bethany Eze has accepted the position as Director of St. Paul's Preschool. She is currently the music instructor for grades K-8, theatre director, and cheer coach at Decatur Heritage. She is a youth pastor at her church and serves on the board of Save a Life Pregnancy Resource Center. She has worked at Church Street Academy and Preschool and the Boys and Girls Club and has served as the director of the Neighborhood Christian Center Summer Youth Leadership Program for the last five years. She has an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Child Development. She will begin after Labor Day. Please welcome into the St. Paul's Family!



This month we welcome  
our new Preschool  
Director, Bethany Eze!

September is sponsored by  
the Number 2 and the Color **RED**.

This month the children will continue lessons on "All About Me" and "Families and Communities." Our Bible stories will be about Abraham's call, his sons, and the birth of Moses.

We'll be singing songs like "Wheels on the Bus," "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," "Do Your Ears Hang Low" and the "The Johnny Applesed Song."

Dates to  
remember

Grandparents Day, Sept 7  
Picture Day, Sept 26

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

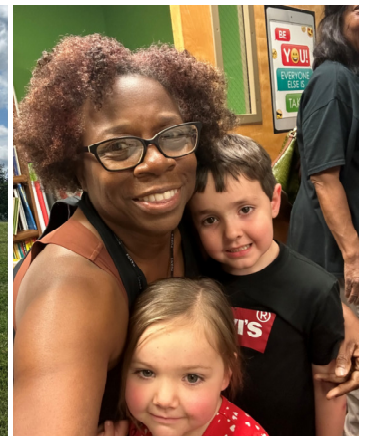
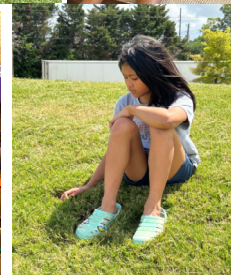


# Afterschool Care

Summer Fun at its Best



oh yeah!



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

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

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YEARS

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

**The Bell that Moved a  
Congregation!!**

On February 27, 2006, Pastor Ronald Reinhardt visited my father, Arthur Hornish, when he was in the hospital. The two men spent about 3 hours talking. I was present in the room; however, I didn't participate in the conversation. I was reading a book. Pastor Reinhardt caught my attention when I heard him tell Dad that he always found what congregations valued or considered important to them interesting. He then proceeded to tell Dad that when St. Paul's was considering the move to the Carridale Street location, the congregation was split about 50 - 50. They held a congregational meeting to discuss the move when, toward the end of the meeting, someone asked if they were going to move the bell. The answer was yes, and, at that point, Pastor Reinhardt said the congregation shifted from a 50 -50 split to a near unanimous vote in favor of the move.

The Bell moved the congregation from Sherman Street to Carridale Street.

The bell was cast at the Vanduzen & Tift Buckeye Bell Foundry in Cincinnati, OH on October 15, 1891, which makes the bell six (6) day shy of being exactly 7



years older than the congregation. It was purchased by the Congregational Church for \$167.42; it weighs 819 pounds and is thirty-six inches (36) inches in diameter. The bell is made of pure copper and East India tin which was combined in a proportion that provides a good, full, and clear tone. To improve the sound of the bell, Van Duzen & Tift changed the shape of the bell. The bell has a unique mounting disc which holds the bell to the yoke. It was in the bell tower of the Sherman Street church when the St. Paul's congregation bought the building in 1901. If we were to replace our bell today, it would cost \$30,000.

The Buckeye Bell Foundry was founded in 1837 by George Coffin. The foundry created the most ornate bells made in the United States. The foundry and the Verdin Company Foundry were located next to each other on the Ohio River Riverfront in Cincinnati, OH. In 1866, E. W. Van Duzen and his partner, C. T. Tift, bought the company and the name was changed to Vanduzen and Tift. In 1894, the company name was changed again to the E. W. Vanduzen Company.

In 1937, the Ohio River flooded and crested at 80 feet - between 15 and 16 feet above flood stage - and destroyed all the businesses along the riverfront, including the Vanduzen Buckeye Bell Foundry and the Verdin Company foundry.

Both businesses relocated and rebuilt. Vanduzen remained in business until 1956 and Verdin Company bought the remaining assets in 1957. Among those assets were three (3) order books that survived the flood and in one of those order books is the order of a bell from the Congregational Church at New Decatur, AL. An interesting note, a bell was also ordered for the Decatur Fire Department at the same time.

When the Sherman Street church was dedicated on March 17, 1901, the bell called the congregation to worship for the first time. During the church remodel in 1951, the church building was turned 90 degrees to allow for the addition of the basement and other improvements. The man in charge of turning the church told Pastor Krohn that he would give him \$50 if the bell rang during the turning. The bell never rang. When the congregation moved from the Sherman Street location to the Carridale Street location in 1968, the bell was installed in the current bell tower before anything else was moved.

Traditionally, the bell calling us to worship represents the voice of God calling us to worship. Our tradition is to ring the bell seven times during the call to worship. Why seven rings? Because Pastor Reinhardt said so. The number seven (7) in the Bible represents completeness. God completed creation in seven (7) days. Or it could represent the traditional ringing of the bell in Medieval times 7 times during the day to call people to pray. Our bell has called the members of St. Paul's to worship for 122 years at every service in the sanctuary, be it a worship service, a wedding, a funeral, or days of national mourning or national celebration. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, it will call us to worship for the 122<sup>nd</sup> time as we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's.

One of the privileges afforded the boys in the confirmation classes at the Sherman Street church was the opportunity to ring the bell before the worship services. There was a young boy who wanted to ring the bell, but he wasn't old enough. He wasn't in the confirmation class. One Sunday, Pastor Reinhardt came to this young man and told him that on that Sunday morning he was going to ring the bell. If you ask Jeff Pittman today, he will tell you that it is one of his fondest memories.

Next time you're in the sanctuary waiting for the service to begin and you hear the bell ring, take a moment, count the dings and dongs, and think about all those who have sat in your place and heard the bell call them to worship.

*Beth Hornish and  
Ron Fritze*







**We say a heartfelt, “Thank you, Nancy!”  
for serving as St. Paul’s Preschool Director  
for 12 years.**

She has led the Preschool through the accreditation process and has directed it through many positive changes that has made our St. Paul’s Preschool one of the best preschools in Decatur, working with over 300 children during these 12 years. What an impact she has made on their lives! Nancy has led with a servant’s heart putting the children, their families and the teachers first.

We pray God’s richest blessings in her retirement!!!



**Rally Day 2023** was Sunday, August 13 with the blessing of our students and their backpacks for the beginning of the school year. It was also our fall Sunday School kickoff for our children and youth, as well as our Adults as they begin new Bible studies as well. Seen above are the children in CrossLife Worship with our DCE, Skylar Smith during her Children’s Message.

Skylar and the Board of Education are seeking additional Sunday School teachers for the preschool-and Kindergarten-age children and our elementary children. If you would like to assist and help team-teach a class, please contact Skylar at 256-353-8759 or email her at [SkylarS@StPaulsDec.com](mailto:SkylarS@StPaulsDec.com). No experience necessary - just a love for Jesus and His children!



**FaithLinks Kickoff 2023** was Wednesday, August 16 with a hamburger cookout and introduction of new Bible studies and activities. We had a full house! Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for our fellowship meal; children and youth activities and the Exodus Adult Bible study begin at 6:00 pm. Handbells, Choir and the Praise Band also practice!

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)



LWML is hosting an **Oktoberfest**

Sunday, September 17

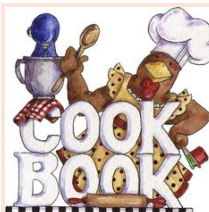
Serving begins after 10:45 Worship  
Pre-sale for Brats Dinner will be each  
Sunday beginning August 27  
after 8:15 and 10:45 Worship

**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)



**125th Anniversary Cookbook**

**Presale has begun.**

Joyce Weiland will be available to take orders between services, August 27, Sept 17 & 24 and will be available October 8 for the celebration. Cookbooks are \$20 each and make great Christmas gifts. All proceeds go to the church. You may contact Joyce at 409-256-5797 for any questions.



**Family Fun Night Fall Festival**

**September 21 5:30-7:00**

**Fun for all ages!**

**Food, Games, Fire Pit & S'mores,  
Hayride**

**Come join the fun!!!**

### Gift Basket Raffle

The ladies of the LWML have gathered an array of wonderful handmade items, canned good and Farmer's Market finds.

Raffle tickets are on sale every Sunday beginning August 27 following both the early and late 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, September 17. You do not need to be present to win.