

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,

Sing with me, in your mind (or even out loud!), the children's praise song, "[Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!](#) Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! Rejoice!! Rejoice!! And again I say rejoice! Rejoice!! Rejoice!! And again I say rejoice!"

You know this song well, don't you? And I hope that today (at least for a little while) this lovely tune stays stuck in your head, for the Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians chapter 4, "*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in*

everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:4-6).

Praise God for His goodness! And try not to be anxious. Give thanks to God for all of His gifts, His abundant blessings! And bring your requests to Him. Ask Him in prayer for what you need, and try not to fret. Indeed there is much to be concerned about in the world today, but God is with His people (Matthew 28:20). He has promised!

Perhaps you are concerned about international instability, wars and rumors of wars. Maybe your personal health, or the well-being of a loved one, is continually on your mind. You might not feel well, physically, emotionally, or even spiritually. But Jesus says to lay it all at His feet. Bring your burdens to Him. "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28).

During the month of November, as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we are reminded that, as children of God in Christ our Savior, we are called to give thanks. Life in this fallen world is never perfect, and sometimes we even feel that we are just getting by, just surviving. But God is truly good! Lift up your eyes from the problems you face, and look at all of the blessings of the Lord.

Another great song, that I know I've mentioned before but is worth bringing to your attention again, is Count Your Blessings. The refrain says, "Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done." This also is a delightful tune, but we recognize that when we actually do this, when we remember what the Lord has given to us, thanking Him and then bringing our needs before Him, "*the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard [our] hearts and [our] minds in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:7).

And lastly, a third song (sung in October by St. Paul's choir), that is always a blessing to reflect upon, is God Is So Good. The original lyrics say, "God is so good... He cares for me... God answers prayer... I praise His name... He's so good to me."

At the beginning of the month of November we have All Saints' Sunday, and toward the end of the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. We, who trust in Christ Jesus, each are saints of God in our Savior, through His blood shed on the cross for the forgiveness of all of our sins. We have been reconciled to God through the sacrifice of Jesus. We have the greatest blessing of eternal life in Christ, having been made members of God's family by the atonement of our Lord. And though life in this world is extremely difficult, we still can rejoice each day because the Lord Himself helps us, and Christ has ultimately overcome the world (John 16:33). Therefore, as you trust in and worship Him, may the peace of the Lord be with you always.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

November 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
November 5 & 19

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

All Saints Sunday
November 5

Voters Meeting
November 12 at 9:30am

KTT Thanksgiving Feast
November 14

**Preschool Thanksgiving
Program & Feast**
November 15

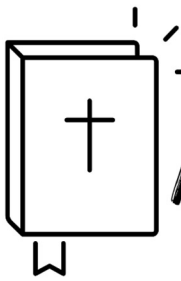
Thanksgiving Eve Worship
November 22 at 12 noon

Campus Closed
November 23 & 24

1st Midweek Advent Worship
November 29

**Tree Decorating in Sanctuary
and Lobby**
Saturday, December 2 at 9am

First Sunday of Advent
Ladies Advent Tea
December 3



Notes from Miss Skylar



St. Paul's Family,

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8 NIV

It's November! Which means my favorite holiday is right around the corner! My favorite holiday of the year is Thanksgiving, because of the great food of course, but mainly because it's a time family and friends gather and are reminded just how much we have to be thankful for! We should be thankful all year long, but that isn't always easy to remember, especially when bad things or hard times happen.

For the month of November, I want to challenge you and your family to think of all you have to be thankful for! Every day think of at least one thing you are thankful for; you can talk about it with your family, write it down in a journal, create a thankfulness jar, or even buy a pumpkin and write the things you are thankful for all over the pumpkin!

I have a jar I put things I am thankful for in all year long and on the days I have trouble thinking of something to be thankful I can pull out the little slips of papers and be reminded of all the blessings God has provided me over the year from good times with family and friends to Sadie having a successful acl surgery to it finally being cool enough to open my sliding door to let in fresh air!

I pray y'all have a wonderful month filled with remembering and seeing all that you have to be thankful for!

God's Blessings,

Skylar Smith, DCE



Children's Christmas Program Practice begins Wednesday, October 4th, 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!

THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

Saturday, November 18th | 6:30pm

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

Enduring Faith

November Sunday School Lessons

- 11/5 - A Fiery Marvel: Three Men in the Fiery Furnace
- 11/12 - Abomination Nation: The Lord Leaves the Temple
- 11/19 - All Together: Christmas Program Practice
- 11/26 - All Together: Christmas Program Practice

FAITHLINKS



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

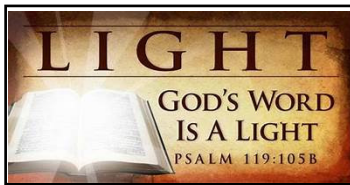
Bible Reading Challenge

November - Waves of Grace

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: Romans 3:23 | Day 16: Isaiah 53:4-5 |
| Day 2: Romans 6:23 | Day 17: Acts 2:38 |
| Day 3: Romans 5:8 | Day 18: Mark 16:15 |
| Day 4: Romans 8:1 | Day 19: Ephesians 1:13-14 |
| Day 5: Mark 10:45 | Day 20: Ephesians 4:17-24 |
| Day 6: Romans 8:32 | Day 21: Colossians 3:1-13 |
| Day 7: 2 Corinthians 5:21 | Day 22: Ephesians 4:25-32 |
| Day 8: 2 Corinthians 8:9 | Day 23: Ephesians 5:1-2 |
| Day 9: 1 Timothy 1:15 | Day 24: Ephesians 5:15-21 |
| Day 10: 1 John 4:9-10 | Day 25: Titus 2:11-15 |
| Day 11: Revelation 5:9 | Day 26: Titus 3:1-11 |
| Day 12: Romans 10:9-13 | Day 27: 1 Peter 1:3-9 |
| Day 13: Romans 1:16-17 | Day 28: 1 Peter 1:13-25 |
| Day 14: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 | Day 29: 1 Peter 4:1-11 |
| Day 15: Ephesians 2:1-10 | Day 30: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 |

You can pick up a monthly bookmark at church, like our Church Facebook page to get the daily reading (and be sure to Like and Share the reading for the day so that your friends can see them too!), or text "@stpaulsbrc" to 81010 to get text message reminders.



Here are several studies along with our 2023 Bible Reading Challenge on page 2 to help us be in His Word and in His light!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

10:30-11:30 am in Room 316

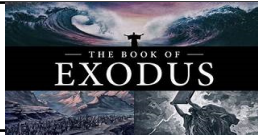
Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Skylar!

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

Nurturing Your Faith: Identity



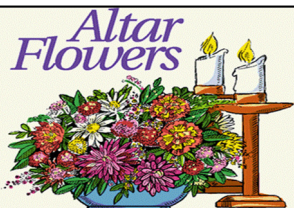
Our identity as forgiven children of God is explored in Nurturing Your Faith: Identity. This Lutheran Hour Ministries Bible study, video hosted by Rev. Dr. John Nunes, examines how as Christians—forgiven for Jesus' sake—we are reconciled to God. Reborn to fellowship and active community, we are inspired to praise God for His great love.

Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Fellowship Room.



Adult Confirmation Class

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



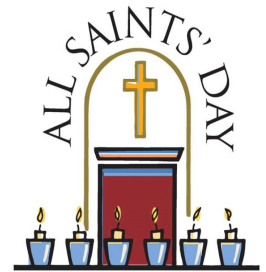
The Flower Calendar for 2023 is up in the breezeway. Sign up early for your special day!



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



Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 22, 12 noon
In the Sanctuary and Facebook Live.
Elder: Bill Darwin
Av: Bob Sullivant



November 5, 2023



Honoring Our Veterans Sunday, November 12

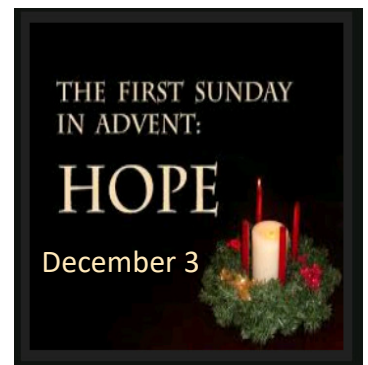
It is our tradition in this place to recognize and thank the Veterans of our St. Paul's Family, and we don't want to leave anyone out. If your name has not been on our Veteran's list in the past, PLEASE call (256) 353-8759 or [email](#) the Church Office with your name and branch of service so that we may include, thank, and honor you. If you are not sure, please do so anyway! (Family members are encouraged to submit names as we know these men and women are of a humble nature!)



Sunday December 3 2:00 - 4:00 pm
in the Fellowship Room

There will be refreshments, music, a guest speaker, and a special time to fellowship. Please join us as we welcome in Advent.

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



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



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

November 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
29 Reformation Day 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship 3:00pm Rev Dr Waffle instillation, Ascension Lutheran Church	30 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	31 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 12:00pm PS trick or treat parade 3:45pm Confirmation	1 No KTT today 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study / 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir / 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	2 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	3	4 2:00pm KTT "Be U" event
5 All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings ends 8:00am Nursery open 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	6 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-Th)	7 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 3:45pm Confirmation	8 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 / 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	9 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	10	11
12 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 1:30pm Porch Visits by Elders	13 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	14 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 3:45pm Confirmation 4:00pm KTT T'giving Feast 6:00pm Education meeting 7:00pm Vestry meeting	15 Newsletter deadline 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 11:00am PS T'giving Program & Feast 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study / 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir / 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	16 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	17	18 KTT Spaghetti fundraiser dinner 5-7pm
19 8:00am Nursery open 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	20 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-W) 2:30pm No KTT this week	21 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 3:45pm Confirmation 6:00pm Preschool Board 7:30pm Fellowship Board	22 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship & FbL 6:00pm Bible study	23 Thanksgiving -campus closed	24	25
26 8:00am Nursery open 8:15am Traditional Worship & FbL 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	27 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	28 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 3:45pm Confirmation	29 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm 1st Wed of Advent Worship 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:15pm FaithLinks dinner 6:00pm Bible study / 6:00pm Handbells 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir / 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	30 8:30 9:30&11AM Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	1	2 Enchanted Forest in Founders Park - all month 9:00am Tree decorating in Sanctuary and Lobby

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Nov 3 Sue Sullivant
- Nov 3 Allison Firpo
- Nov 4 John Mann
- Nov 4 Steve O'Shea
- Nov 4 Tim Herfurth
- Nov 4 Rhonda Kruger
- Nov 6 Gerry Hooper
- Nov 7 Brandon Cevallos
- Nov 7 Judy Nagy
- Nov 9 Mike Holcomb
- Nov 9 Cindy Todd
- Nov 11 Jordan Lawrence
- Nov 12 Kayla Lang
- Nov 13 Tim Ballentine
- Nov 13 Gary Nagy
- Nov 14 Justin Lawrence
- Nov 16 Linda Paradise
- Nov 17 Erica Saria

- Nov 20 Heather Asher
- Nov 21 Grace Mitchell
- Nov 23 Mary Cox
- Nov 25 Jimmy Mueller
- Nov 27 CharLee Smith
- Nov 29 Mike Hellebrand
- Nov 30 Mike Johnson
- Nov 30 Bob Seibert
- Nov 30 Tim Nave

God's Blessings on your Special Day!

Thank you very much

Thank you to each of you for the kind words, cards, and notes during Pastor Appreciation month. They mean a lot! God's blessings, Pastor



- Nov 21 David & Debbie Waple
- Nov 24 Bruce & June Asher
- Nov 26 Terry Raemhild & Kathleen O'Brien
- Nov 27 Tommy & Dee Livingston

Missing Music Stands

Whoever borrowed the five Manhasset music stands and also any choral music from the choir loft, please return them. Thank you.



LWML's "Cookies by the Pound" coming December 10!

Called Home to Heaven

**Sharon Brunner
October 4, 2023**

**Rhoda Ross
October 5, 2023**

**Peggy Kauffman
October 20, 2023**



Poinsettias will go on sale in November. Watch announcements

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

		November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Elders	8:15am	Mitchell Whiteside	Bill Darwin	Tim Nave	Joseph Woodbury
Ushers	8:15am	Mike Ater Bob Seibert Mike Johnson	Graham Peebles James Thrasher Michael Kimmitt Matthew Kimmitt	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Mitchell Whiteside Mike Widmar	Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave
Acolytes	8:15am	Owen	Katelyn	Emma	Owen
A/V Techs	8:15am	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Bob Sullivant	Rich Maschke
Readers	8:15am	Jeff Pittman	Rhonda Reece	Nancy Neuendorf	Luke Frasher
Sanctuary Flowers		Linda Hyde	Open	Open	Mitchell Whiteside

Altar Guild for November: Sue Sullivant and Carol Henderson

Counters for November: Dave/Jane Burrell and Patrick Helpingstine

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



ATTENDANCE

2023 Year-to-Date Average Attendance

In-church attendees 125
Facebook sign-ins 14

FINANCES

Current Loan
Balance: **\$225,408**

Financial Plan Activity thru September 30, 2023

YTD FirstFruits Giving: **\$ 351,223** PLAN: **\$337,500**
YTD Total Expenses: **- \$ 345,419** PLAN: **\$368,289**
Plan Activity thru Sept **\$ 5,904**

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

online giving

Secure Giving at www.StPaulsDec.com



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



Would you like to Receive CALLS from St PAUL's?

Calls come from this new number

(855) 248-7295

Be sure to "create a new contact" with

(855) 248-7295

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!

St Paul's LWML will be sponsoring a tree at Decatur's Annual Enchanted Forest this December in honor of our 125th Anniversary.

Watch for more details in the December newsletter.



St Paul's Lutheran Preschool 2023-2024



This Month is all about Giving Thanks!

November is sponsored by the number 4 and the color **brown**.

This month the children will learn about families, communities and all things Thanksgiving. The shape of the month is square and letters Pp, Rr, Bb and Ss.

Our Bible stories and study will include David and Goliath and Daniel in the Lion's Den.

Dates to Remember

Our yearly Thanksgiving program and feast will be November 15th at 11:00.

November 20-22 is **Extended Care only**. No preschool. We will be closed November 23-24 for Thanksgiving.



**STOP
DROP
ROLL**

Copyright Homemade-Preschool.com

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



Afterschool Care

Supporting KTT Members



We love to support our members in and off the grounds of KTT. It's important for them to know they have a village looking out for them. We too, are interested in their extra curricular activities and accomplishments.



Are you ready for some

KTT Inc SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER



When: Saturday, November 18th, 2023
Where: St Paul's fellowship room
Time: 5:00-7:00
Cost \$10.00 Adult, \$5.00 ten and under
Includes salad, bread, drink and dessert. Carry out optional. There will be meat and plant based options. Space is limited! Tickets go on sale Nov 1st. For planning purposes, preordering is recommended. Tickets will also be available between services in the Lobby.

VOLUNTEERS



Don Olson and Mike Ater are the most loyal van drivers I know. They have faithfully volunteered for over five years. They started when we were BGC. Many times they assist with more than driving. Thank you so much for being some of our everyday heroes! I also would like to thank another amazing couple who is just as faithful with providing a wonderful snack once a month. They are not pictured by request. We love you and thank you!



KTT will be Closed
November 1st Remote learning Day
November 10th Veterans Day
November 20-24 Thanksgiving Break
Please plan accordingly

Feeding Alabama, our after school meals sponsor for at risk programs, have decided to phase out the lunches/snacks in November. Because of this, we are in need of more snack donors for the children who do not have snack money or snacks. Any and every food donation is helpful. 10-15 children are directly affected by this decision. Prayerfully consider contributing to this most worthy cause.

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

**Our Homecoming
on October 8, 2023**



What a wonderful Homecoming of over 200 of St. Paul's family to gather and celebrate our 125th Anniversary!
To God be the Glory!

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

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

Saint Paul's Exodus

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.'" Genesis 12:1

The turning and remodeling of St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Sherman Street in 1951 only temporarily and partially alleviated the congregation's problem with a building that was too small. There were no classrooms or meeting rooms and the available space for social events was cramped. Tommy and Dee Livingston and Pam Meadows remember how members of the congregation had to find quiet corners in the sanctuary to hold classes and meetings. As Tommy put it, the old church was only capable of comfortably serving a congregation of around sixty people.

Meanwhile, Decatur was continuing to grow dramatically. The city's population in 1950 was 19,974 but by 1960, it had grown to 29,217, a 46% increase. While Decatur in earlier decades had had larger percentage increases in its population, these large increases were the result of the annexation of pre-existing nearby communities such as Albany where the Sherman Street church was located. In 1960, industries were continuing to move to Decatur, bringing with them more people moving from the North including more Lutherans. That trend would continue through the 1960s so that by 1970, Decatur's population reached 38,044.

On 25 June 1961, St. Paul's got a new pastor, Ronald Reinhardt. The previous pastor, Emil Krohn had accepted a call in Nebraska after serving over ten years as pastor of St. Paul's. Fortunately for St. Paul's, there was only around a three-month gap between Pastor Krohn's departure and Pastor Reinhardt's arrival. Six-months later, the congregation appointed an Expansion Committee during January 1962. The committee consisted of Ed Johnson, Norman Meyer, Clarence Heiserman, and Louis Nebrig. Its charge was to look into buying land nearby the old church on Sherman Street. The committee discussed the situation with local landowners and discovered that no one was interested in selling. Sherman Street was a pleasant residential neighborhood consisting of houses built during the 1910s and 1920s. It is now part of the Albany Historic District. Across Fourth Avenue, there was a school and the National Guard armory, the site of old Fort Decatur. At the time, both of those entities were seemingly permanently in place. As a result, the Expansion Committee reported that with such a static real estate market, there was no prospect of St. Paul's being able to expand at its current location.

The problem of the old church's cramped physical plant was not going to go away. So on 12 April 1964, the congregation reactivated the Expansion Committee with the same membership as the first committee. They were tasked to find a suitable property with room for growth at the new location for St. Paul's. What they found was a five-acre tract of land on Carridale Street. At that time, the area around the Carridale address was vacant and undeveloped. There was no mall.

There was no national guard armory. There was no branch of the Decatur General Hospital. Most importantly, there were no residential developments to provide homes for potential members.

When members learned about the potential new location for the church, Bobbie Seibert and Pam Meadows both recalled that many people initially thought the plan was crazy. Pam Meadows tells that Pastor Reinhardt gave the Expansion Committee's members Norman Meyer and Clarence Heiserman much of the credit for successfully promoting the move to Carridale Street. Both men were practical businessmen who could see that the future expansion of Decatur lay in the southwest of town where Carridale Street was located. Expansion north across the Tennessee River was impractical and the city had expanded to the east about as far as it could go. Tommy and Dee Livingston and Ron and Bobbie Seibert remember that the congregation came to support the move with little opposition. Pam Meadows heard from her parents that they thought moving was the right thing to do. One issue, however, did cause some concern. People wanted the beloved church bell to be part of the move to Carridale Street. Pam Meadows and Beth Hornish both report this concern. Beth remembers a conversation she witnessed between her father and Pastor Reinhardt. Pastor Reinhardt told how the issue of the bell caused some resistance to the move. Once it was made clear that the bell was coming along, the resistance dissolved. Pam Meadows heard that some members also wanted to take the rose window in the altar area of the sanctuary of the Sherman Street church and install it in the new church (pictured on the back page). This wish had to be abandoned as removing the window would have caused some serious damage to the old church.

Meyer and Heiserman were right as the future growth of businesses and homes around St. Paul's attests. So, when the full congregation met, it voted to purchase the five-acre tract for \$40,000. With the new location assured, the voters meeting of January 1965 created a committee to conduct a facility needs study and hire an architect. The committee chose Eldon Mack of the architectural firm of Simoni, Heck, and Associates of New Orleans. St. Paul's exodus had found its destination. Next month it will get its new sanctuary and buildings.

Ron Fritze and Beth Hornish



Groundbreaking on Carridale St SW - can you name these fellas?

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

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



Rose window in the altar area of the sanctuary
of the Sherman Street church

**The 125th St Paul's Cookbook is for
sale for \$20. each**

Contact Joyce Weiland at 409-256-
5797 or Sue Bosco at 256-565-6300



Fall Semi-Annual Voters Assembly Meeting

Sunday, November 12

**9:30 am between services
in the Fellowship Room**

- Coffee & Donuts provided -



**2024 Financial Plan Presented
for Approval**