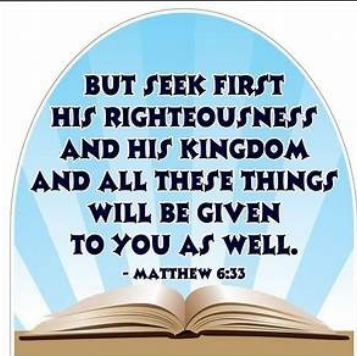


St. Paul's Epistle

"St. Paul's Lutheran Church glorifies God by connecting people to Jesus through teaching, serving, caring, & telling!"

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



Friends in Christ,

In the Gospel of Matthew, the sixth chapter, Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, "I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" (Matthew 6:25-27). According to Jesus' words, from the perspective of acknowledging and trusting in God, there is no reason to worry constantly about the things

needed for life, for God will take care of those who trust in and seek after Him. In fact, Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Those who seek the Lord (or believe in and follow Him) are promised to have what they need. Indeed, people often don't get what they want in life, but we are promised that we will receive what we need if we follow Christ in faith.

For one to live life without God means that one has no confidence or security anywhere except in one's self and other people, all of whom are flawed and mortal. Life without God is a life of insecurity and purposelessness. There is no inherent value or meaning in life without God, and there is no certainty that one will exist even for another moment should life suddenly end.

Jesus says, in Matthew chapter six, that people will have what they need for the length of earthly life that God has given to them if they will seek first the kingdom of God, that is, if they will strive to follow and honor the Lord, in a relationship of faith. The Lord has promised this because through faith in Jesus Christ one receives forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and the promise of everlasting life. One's present mortal earthly life then becomes secondary to the eternal life received as a gift through trusting in Christ. The Lord promises to provide for His people who follow Him, for the length of earthly life that He has determined to give. Concern about this earthly life is dramatically reduced when one has the confidence of eternal life. This everlasting life is offered as a gift to all people of the world, through faith, as Jesus said in John chapter 3 verse 16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

So may you, who trust in Christ our living Savior, be blessed with His joy and peace this Easter season. May our gracious Lord use you, His SENT people, to shine the light of our Savior into the lives of those who currently live without Him. And may the hope and strength of our Risen Lord Jesus carry you through the wilderness of life unto the eternal home He has prepared for all who trust in the Savior.

In Christ our Risen Savior,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

Midweek Lenten and Easter Worship Series:
Places of the Passion

Maudy Thursday April 1 –
The Last Supper: A Place of Forgiveness (Luke 22:14-23)

Good Friday April 2 –
Golgotha: A Place of Simple Love (Luke 23:33-49)

Easter April 4 –
The Empty Tomb: A Place of Remembering (Luke 24:1-11)

Celebrate the Risen Savior with Us!

April 4

IN THE SANCTUARY
8:15
with Facebook Live

UNDER THE TENT
11:00
with Drive Up

EASTER

COVID-SAFE BREAKFAST
9:30 - 10:30
Served in the ARC

EGG HUNT
10:00

Christ is Risen - He is Risen Indeed!

April 2021

Worship on Sundays

8:15am Traditional Worship
In-Church & **FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM**

9:30am WZDK 98.5 FM Radio

11:00am Drive-in Worship

Holy Communion Apr 4, 18

Bible Study

Children's Bible Time FB post

Sundays 9:00am

Galatians Study Zoom

Sundays 9:30am

MS Youth Zoom Meet-up

Sunday April 18

Book of John Bible Study

Wednesdays 6:00pm

Youth Confirmation Live

Wednesdays 6:00pm

Adult Confirmation Zoom

Wednesdays 8:00pm

Looking Ahead

Holy Week

March 28 - April 4

Young Adults Basket Assembly

(Items needed) April 2 8:00pm

Youth Yard-Egging Fundraiser

(reserve 3 days before) April 3

Easter Celebration

April 4

Voters Meeting in-person & Zoom

April 25 12:15pm

Confirmation Oral Exam

April 30 7:00pm

Rite of Confirmation

May 2 8:15am

LWML Bingo & Bake Sale

Fundraiser

May 2 2:00pm

Preschool Graduation

May 19 6:30pm

St. Paul's 2021 THEME VERSE:

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'" John 20:21

St. Paul's 2021 THEME:

We are a SENT people!

April 2021

† denotes Holy Communion celebrated during Worship

* denotes choir sings during Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
28 Palm Sunday 8:15 AM Traditional Worship* & Facebook Live 9:00 AM Virtual Children's Bible Time 9:30 AM Radio 98.5FM Worship 11:00 AM Drive-in Worship	29 7:00 AM PS Ext Care (M-F)	30 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	31 10:00 AM Quilting 6:00 PM Book of John study 7:00 PM Praise Band 7:15 PM Choir	1 Maundy Thursday Worship 12noon & 7pm 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	2 Good Friday Worship 12noon & 7pm Preschool Ext ended Care closes at noon 8:00 PM Young Adults assemble Homebound Easter baskets	3 8:00 AM Youth flower Cross 9:00 AM Young Adults deliver baskets 6:00 PM Youth Egg Yards
4 Easter Sunday LWML Mite Collection 8:15 AM Traditional Worship* & Facebook Live† 9:00 AM Virtual Children's Bible Time 9:30 AM Easter Breakfast until 10:30 9:30 AM Radio 98.5FM Worship† 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 AM Drive-in Worship†	5 7:00 AM PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45 AM Preschool (M-Th) 10:30 AM LWML Meeting 2:30 PM Afterschool Care (M-F)	6 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	7 10:00 AM Quilting 4:00 PM God's Place Worship 6:00 PM Book of John study 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Praise Band 7:15 PM Choir 8:00 PM Adult Confirmation	8 10:00 AM PS Chapel 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	9	10
11 8:15 AM Traditional Worship* & Facebook Live 9:00 AM Virtual Children's Bible Time 9:30 AM Galatians Zoom Study 9:30 AM Radio 98.5FM Worship 11:00 AM Drive-in Worship	12 7:00 AM PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45 AM Preschool (M-Th) 2:30 PM Afterschool Care (M-F)	13 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Education Team meeting 7:00 PM Vestry meeting	14 10:00 AM Quilting 4:00 PM God's Place Worship 6:00 PM Book of John study 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Praise Band 8:00 PM Adult Confirmation	15 Newsletter deadline 10:00 AM PS Chapel 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	16	17
18 8:15 AM Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:00 AM Virtual Children's Bible Time 9:30 AM Galatians Zoom Study 9:30 AM Radio 98.5FM Worship† 11:00 AM Drive-in Worship†	19 7:00 AM PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45 AM Preschool (M-Th) 2:30 PM Afterschool Care (M-F)	20 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	21 10:00 AM Quilting 4:00 PM God's Place Worship 6:00 PM Book of John study 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Praise Band 7:15 PM Choir 8:00 PM Adult Confirmation	22 10:00 AM PS Chapel 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	23	24
25 8:15 AM Traditional Worship* & Facebook Live 9:00 AM Virtual Children's Bible Time 9:30 AM Galatians Zoom Study 9:30 AM Radio 98.5FM Worship 11:00 AM Drive-in Worship 12:15 PM Voters Meeting	26 7:00 AM PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45 AM Preschool (M-Th) 2:30 PM Afterschool Care (M-F)	27 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	28 10:00 AM Quilting 4:00 PM God's Place Worship 6:00 PM Book of John study 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Praise Band 8:00 PM Adult Confirmation	29 10:00 AM PS Chapel 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	30 7:00 PM Confirmation oral exam	1

BIRTHDAYS

Apr 1 Lisa Miller
 Apr 1 Rhonda Reece
 Apr 2 Nancy Whiteside
 Apr 3 Miranda Jordan
 Apr 3 Becky Ballentine
 Apr 6 Tracy Stoudnour
 Apr 6 James Thrasher
 Apr 7 Steve Kurtz
 Apr 9 Becky King
 Apr 9 Mike Staudt
 Apr 10 Fisher Love
 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 20 Pam Newton
 Apr 21 Craig Faller



Apr 21 Sal Salgado
 Apr 22 Maddox Maples
 Apr 22 Jerry Morris
 Apr 24 Jennifer Frick
 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
 Apr 30 Adreanna Mowen

ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 2 Devin & Christina Schmelter
 Apr 6 Mike & Nell McMinn
 Apr 9 John & Regina Smith
 Apr 13 Jason & Wendy Duffey
 Apr 18 Ron & Twylia Fritze
 Apr 20 Doug & Amy Hamilton
 Apr 24 Kent & Farrah Locker
 Apr 28 Doug & Vicki Anderson
 Apr 30 Randy & Karin Burtram

*God's Blessings
 on your
 Special Day!*

We have included KNOWN birthdays and anniversaries. If yours is not on this list, it is not intentionally left off. please email or call the Church Office at 256.353.8759 and let us know your special day!



Easter Egg Hunt!

Calling All Children!

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10:00am
 Bring your Easter baskets and join the hunt!
 There will be prizes by age groups!

Called Home to Heaven

March 7: Mary Jeanne Stoudnour



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

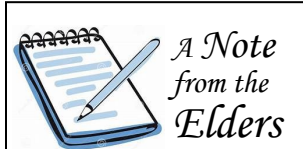
	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
Elders 8:15am	Bob Sullivant	Craig Baker	Mike Ater	John Mann
AV Techs 8:15 am	Rich Maschke	Craig Baker	Rich Maschke	Craig Baker
Sanctuary Flowers	Cindy Todd	Bakers	Open	Open
Adult Choir	Mary Morgan, Pete Alvis, Melinda Baker, Celia Faller, Steven Frick, Kellye Jones, Dee Livingston, Pam Meadows, Mitchell Whiteside, Mary Yocom, Mark Blaske			
Altar Guild for April	Tammy Corlew, Diane Pitts		Counters for April	Tim Herfurth and Beth Hornish
Elders 11:00am	Mike Widmar/ James Gilchrist	Mike Ringers/Ronnie Atkins	Dave Burrell/James Gilchrist	Mike Widmar/Mike Ringers
Greeters 11:00am	Dave & Jane Burrell	Jimmy & Carol Mueller	Dave & Jane Burrell	Jimmy & Carol Mueller
Praise Band	Pastor Kretzschmar, Christen Bradley, Maggie Nicholson, Steve O'Shea, Selena Salgado, Doug Thompson			



April 1
Maundy Thursday Worship
 12 noon and 7pm
 in the Sanctuary and on Facebook
 Serving at noon: John Mann
 Serving at 7pm: Craig Baker



April 2
Good Friday Worship
 12 noon and 7pm
 in the Sanctuary and on Facebook
 Serving at noon: Dave Burrell
 Serving at 7pm: Philip Corlew



Dear St. Paul's family,
 It's happening! I've been writing to you for the past 10 months about the challenges, struggles, and, for some, the pain that COVID-19 has created.

This article is different – it's about returning to 'normal' at St Paul's. Pastor and the Elders have put together a plan to start that process. Returning to 'normal' will be like learning to walk again, one step at a time. Our phased approach prioritizes the health and safety of our members, guests and staff while also recognizing the reality of the advancements (increasing vaccinations, declining COVID-19 cases, and improved medical treatment) we have achieved in the pandemic and our desire for people to return to onsite worship.

However, if there is a resurgence of high hospitalizations, this can delay and /or reverse the steps we've laid out for return to campus.

You may have noticed the first step – placing the Bibles and hymnals back in the pews. Here is the getting back to 'normal' plan going forward:

- Open the building to in-house meetings
- Vestry and Voters both meeting at St Paul's beginning in April
- Additional Easter celebration together under a tent @ 11am
- Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Easter morning
- Elders' annual Easter breakfast served
- Our neighbors (around church) will be invited to join us for all Easter Sunday activities
- Continued evaluation of activities with the planned completion of having all activities (worship, confirmation classes, Sunday School classes, open building for outsider use, meals, communion at the altar rail, removing restrictions put in place for re-opening church, etc.) at St Paul's fully resuming by August 1.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel, but it is prudent for us to slowly make changes so that we can quickly and efficiently pinpoint any issues that may arise. Let us continue to walk together in unity as God blesses our effort to return St Paul's to fulfilling our theme of being a SENT people (John 20:21).

Blessings,
 Dave Burrell, Elder



Prophets High School Youth Fundraiser
 For \$25 a yard we will hide 50 plastic eggs filled with candy and toys in your yard in the evening of April 3. Please let Heather Asher know at 256-476-0415 if you want your yard to be Egged!



April 25 12:15 in the ARC
 Bring your own Brown Bag Lunch!
 The meeting will also be available by Zoom - watch your email for the link!
 Voter Packets will be ready by April 18

Bingo & Bake Sale Fundraiser
May 2 2:00-4:00pm
in the Fellowship Room



Tickets on sale at church during both services April 11, 18 and 25. \$5.00 a card or \$20.00 for 5 cards. Also, cards can be purchased May 2 at the door. Don't forget to wear a hat for Kentucky Derby Bingo Day! Sponsored by St Paul's LWML.



Financial Plan Activity thru February 28, 2021

YTD FirstFruits Giving: \$ 69,780
 YTD Total Expenses: - \$ 63,668
 Fin Plan overage YTD - \$ 6,112

Current Loan Balance: \$270,131

Goal YTD: \$41,400

Thanks to all for faithful Giving in-person, by mail, and online.
 Online Giving is greatly encouraged!
 Currently, 35% of our Givers give online; go to the website, download the app, or contact the Church Office for a paper application!



Secure Giving
[on the website](http://onthewebsite)
www.StPaulsDec.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

& UPCOMING EVENTS

Prophets Activities

April 3 – Flower the Easter Cross 8-10am
 April 3 – Egg Yards for Fundraiser 6-8pm
 April 4 – Help with the Easter Egg Hunt 9-11am



Youth EGGStravaganza!

On Sunday, March 21, our middle and high school youth and their mentors (thank you all!) gathered in the Fellowship Room and stuffed a bajillion plastic eggs with candy for the return of our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt at 10am on Easter Sunday. Thanks to the donations of candy by our members and friends of St. Paul's, there will be many eggs to hide and hunt on Easter morning here at church. Our Preschool and KTT children along with our neighborhood children are also invited to join in on the hunt.

All children are encouraged to bring a basket to church on Easter morning, worship with their families at either the 8:15am Traditional service in the Sanctuary or after the hunt at 11:00am out on the west lawn where a tent will be set up and our praise band will lead our Drive-in and Walk-up Easter service. The Elders are serving breakfast from 9:30-10:30am in the gym. **What a glorious celebration of our risen Lord and Savior!**



Afterschool Care

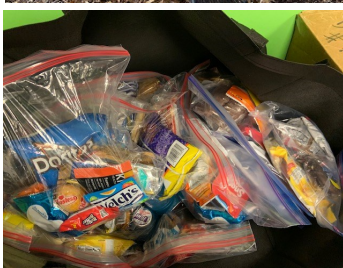
Enjoying the great outdoors in the newly-fenced in area. Thank you, St. Paul's, for partnering with us.



Princesses of Grace, directed by Felicia Salgado, cleaning up the prayer garden.



Thank you, Pamela Bolding of NCC, for being a supporter of KTT Inc. and sending us Trey Burks to tutor and interact with the youth. The donations given are always a blessing!



Special thanks to State Trooper Brandon Bailey for giving a much needed bullying presentation. The children learned that there's more to bullying than just saying hateful things, taunting and hitting each other. They learned that they were actively participating in bullying, if they are not doing anything to prevent it when they see it happening. If they stand around and laugh while someone is being bullied, they are a part of the problem. They also did role playing to make it more interesting and had a very engaging question and answering session.



Bullying Prevention



Surprise Visit from our Home Town Hero



Tampa Bay Bucs
Joshua Pearson



Summer Camp is quickly approaching. Applications are being accepted now Mon-Fri 2:00-6:00.

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 Preschool

Our Preschool children helped the Young Adults with their Easter project for our shut-ins. Each class made cards to add to the baskets being delivered. We love being part of St. Paul's ministries. We are little, but we are learning to help others in many ways.



Graduation

We WILL have on-site graduation this year, whether it be in the Sanctuary, gym, or outside! Our PreK 4 children have worked so hard this year, and we want to send them off to "big school" with a year-end celebration.

Join us on May 19th at 6:30pm to share their program and reception. If you would like to help on the 19th please let us know and we will make sure to include you!

A huge thank you to Mike Widmar who painted 4 new storage cubby sets. This was a tedious job but done with great care. They look great!!



Thank you to the Trustees who work behind the scenes to fix and improve things at St. Paul's Preschool. We could not continue this important ministry to families without all the behind the scenes help we receive from St. Paul's Lutheran Church!



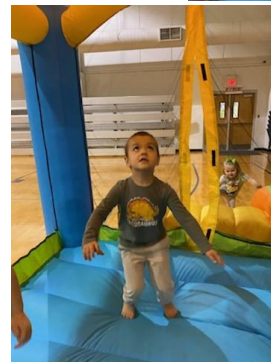
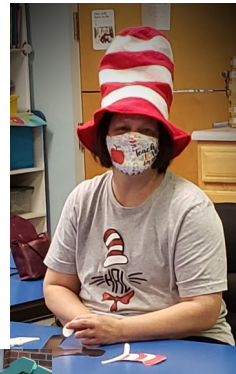
Thank you, Tim Ballentine, for our lamb pictures!

What Will I Be.....



Vice President, Scientist, Leader

March Highlights



Rainy Day Bouncy House Fun

Registration for Summer Preschool & Fall 2021-2022

Registration for summer and fall began in March. If you know someone who is interested, have them contact the Preschool office at 256-353-1353.



Nancy Neuendorf, Director

(256) 353-1353

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