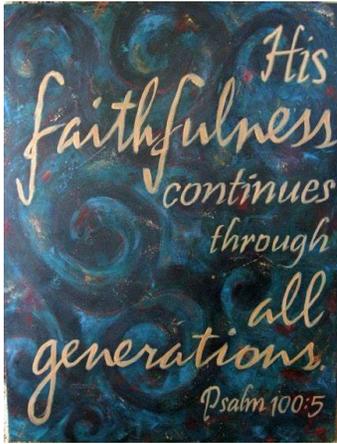


St. Paul's Epistle

"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



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A new year is upon us! 2023 is here! And since you are likely reading this article near the start of 2023, perhaps you are thinking back and reflecting in these days on all that took place in 2022—the good and the bad both. For, certainly, there were innumerable blessings that the Lord bestowed on each of us. Also, we have faced difficulties, great challenges.

If you're like me, by the time December is drawing to a close, you always feel ready for a new year. I never find myself wishing that a year could somehow just continue on, for I'm looking forward to something new. And perhaps you yourself long for something new. If you feel this way, I have some good news to tell you! At St. Paul's we have a new emphasis for 2023.

Each year St. Paul's leadership works together to set a theme and select a verse. But this time something was different. You see, already we are planning and preparing for the 125th Anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Already we are thinking ahead to Sunday, October 8th, 2023, when we will give thanks to God with special devotion, praising the Lord, and remembering that 125 years ago He enabled this congregation to be established, and He has used His means of grace (Word and Sacraments) that many would be members of His family, growing in our Savior Jesus and bearing good fruit in Him.

As a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, Law and Gospel have been preached, taught, and shared faithfully for generations. People are sinners in need of a Savior, for by nature we are destined for hell—an eternity separated from God. But praise the Lord that God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die upon the cross for our sins and rise from the dead—bringing us forgiveness and the certain promise of eternal life, by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Now we live each day in repentant faith, eagerly anticipating our Lord's return, knowing that we are saved in Him!

God has blessed St. Paul's Lutheran Church immensely as a congregation. We have a preschool, an afterschool care program, activities taking place for all ages on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, as well as at other times. The members of St. Paul's themselves have a strong love for the Lord and desire to do His will. And really, I could go on and on and on about all of the good things about St. Paul's (past and present), but I must state clearly at this time that it is all God's doing! The Lord is the Giver of all that is good (James 1:17).

Working through the Gospel—the Good News that Christ died for our sins and rose again—forgiveness, life, and salvation have come to an incredible number of people as God's Word was spoken, as the waters of Holy Baptism were poured, and as the true body and blood of Christ were administered in the Lord's Supper. Yes, at this congregation, God Himself has been in the very midst of His people, imparting new and unending life, as pure gift through faith in His Son. Literally, all of the good that we see and hear at this congregation is a result of God's work in our lives—fruit produced as God's people have looked in faith to Christ. Therefore, for 2023 St. Paul's leadership has established the theme, "Through the years, the Lord is faithful!" with the verse for the year being Psalm 100:5, "For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

In 2023 let us give thanks to God, and let us remember that the Lord is truly faithful. He wants us to serve Him, yes! He wants us bring honor to Him through our lives, absolutely! But He also wants us never to forget that He is the Giver of every good gift (James 1:17). The Lord is our Source of life—temporal and eternal—both as a congregation and as individual people who live together in community.

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). So let us continue to trust in Him, worship Him, serve and obey Him, as we rejoice in a new year in God's grace. Amen.

In Christ our Savior,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

January 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

January 1, 15

Staffed Nursery 8am until noon

Bible Study

Adult Bible Study

Great Women of the Bible

Sundays 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 9:45am

Acts Bible Study

Wednesdays 10:30

Gospel of Luke Bible Study

Wednesdays 6:15pm

Looking Ahead

Installation of Officers

January 8

FaithLinks dinners begin again

January 11

Jr Youth Gathering

January 13-15

Stewardship Sunday

January 29

Voters Meeting

January 29 at 12 noon

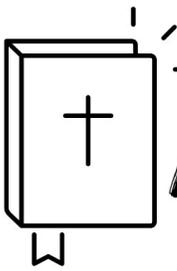


2023 Theme

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,

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28*

Happy New Year!

Last month we had our Children's Christmas Program, Christmas Around the World, which went so well! We had 30 children participate and they did such a great job! Thank you to all who participated and all the volunteers who helped make this program happen!

The holiday season can be so busy and now with the beginning of the new year let's focus on slowing down and resting with our families. Resting doesn't necessarily mean sleeping although naps are always great especially for the little ones! Resting also looks like spending quality time with our families, here are some ideas you and your family can do this month to slow down and rest: order a pizza and make some popcorn and settle in for the evening with a family game night or a family movie night, take time each night to talk about the things you are each grateful/thankful for, choose a book to read together, or read the Bible together!

Speaking of reading our Bibles! With the new year we are beginning a new Bible Reading Challenge for 2023! This challenge is to help us all get into God's Word daily. It's a simple plan of 1-3 verses a day which you can read once or if you have time, read multiple times throughout the day! And if life gets busy and you miss a day, don't stress, you can easily catch up or just pick up with the new days reading! Bookmarks with the month's readings will be made available every month, you can receive a daily text with the reading by texting "@stpaulsbrc" to 81010, and you can also see the daily reading on our Church Facebook page (be sure to share this post so your friends and family can also participate in this challenge)!

God's Blessings,

Skylar Smith, DCE



Wednesdays at 6:15pm in the ARC
Join us for Devotions and Games

We need helpers for Wednesday Nights!
If you love kids and are willing to be extra eyes and hands for KidLinks please consider helping out!
Contact Skylar if you can help!



THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

Dinner

Saturday, January 21st | 6:30pm

To receive information and reminders

text "@yaanchor" to 81010

Contact Skylar with any questions!

Enduring Faith

January Sunday School Lessons

1/1 - No Sunday School

1/8 - Wise Men Worship: Magi

1/15 - Handmade: Adam and Eve

1/22 - A Sign & A Promise: God's Covenant w/ Abram

1/29 - A Laughable Promise: Isaac is Born

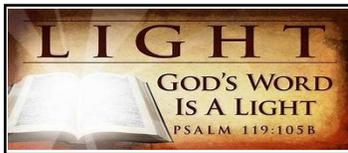
Bible Reading Challenge

January - The Gospel of Jesus Christ

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: 1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4 | Day 17: 1 John 2:2 |
| Day 2: 1 Corinthians 2:2 | Day 18: Romans 3:24, 26; 8:28 |
| Day 3: Romans 3:23, Is. 53:6 | Day 19: Romans 5:1-5 |
| Day 4: Romans 5:6 | Day 20: Romans 5:20-21 |
| Day 5: Romans 8:3 | Day 21: 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 |
| Day 6: Romans 8:32 | Day 22: 2 Corinthians 5:21 |
| Day 7: John 15:12-14 | Day 23: 1 John 1:9 |
| Day 8: Acts 13:30, 38-39 | Day 24: Luke 15:20-24 |
| Day 9: Colossians 2:13 | Day 25: Ephesians 4:20-24 |
| Day 10: John 1:12 | Day 26: Romans 8:31 |
| Day 11: Acts 1:8 | Day 27: 1 Peter 5:12 |
| Day 12: Psalm 32:2 | Day 28: Colossians 1:23 |
| Day 13: Ephesians 1:13-14 | Day 29: 1 Timothy 1:13-14 |
| Day 14: Romans 8:16-17 | Day 30: 2 Timothy 1:3-14 |
| Day 15: Romans 6:6-7, 14 | Day 31: 2 Timothy 2:8 |
| Day 16: Romans 5:18 | |

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.

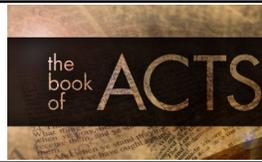


Here are several studies along with our 2022 Bible Reading Challenge on page 2 to help us be in His Word and in His light!

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!



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Wednesday nights beginning at 6:15 pm in Room 317. Please join us!

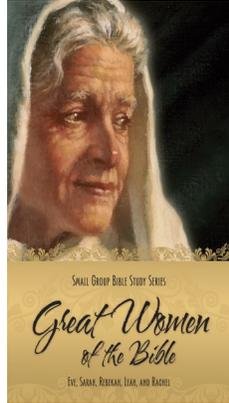


Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:30 am Room 317

Great Women of the Bible

Join us as June Asher leads this Bible Study that looks at the lives of only the most familiar women in God's Word. From Eve, the first woman, to those women who helped Jesus' apostles, participants will see God's grace in action as He calls and leads these women in their daily lives. Through their God-given faith and their faith-filled deeds, you will be inspired by these great women of the Bible.

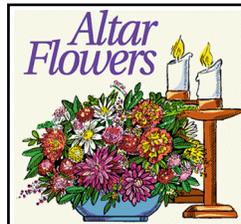


Sunday morning, 9:45am in the Fellowship room Pastor's Bible Study

Bible Study beginning January 8, 2023

In the Grip of His Grace: 40 Days through Romans

- ◆ The Problem We Face (Romans 1-2) – January 8
- ◆ The Gift We've Been Offered (Romans 3-5) – January 15
- ◆ The Battle We Fight (Romans 6-8) – January 22
- ◆ The Story We've Joined (Romans 9-11) – January 29
- ◆ The Path We Follow (Romans 12-13) – February 5
- ◆ The Fellowship We Find (Romans 14-16) – February 12



The Flower Calendar for 2023 is up in the breezeway.

Sign up early for your special day!



Come join the Handbell Choir
Wednesdays at 6:00pm
in the choir loft.
January 4 and 18



Come join the choir
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
in the choir loft.
New members welcome!
For more info contact
Mary Morgan
January 4 and 18



Epiphany: the 'Other' Christmas

Epiphany is Christmas 2.0. Its conspicuous place following the nativity narrative in Matthew's Gospel presents it as the "other Christmas," the "Christmas of the Gentiles." At the first Christmas we find a swaddled baby in a manger visited by shepherds from the fields summoned by angels. In the "other Christmas," we find a toddler at His mother's feet in a house visited by Magi, Wise Men from the East guided by a star. The first Christmas was announced to Israel, the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham; the second Christmas was for the world, the nations, the Gentiles, the fulfillment of God's promise to Adam.

"Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising," God said (Isaiah 60:3).

Simeon declared that the child Jesus had come as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32 ESV), and Jesus commanded his disciples to "make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19 ESV) But what that meant did not sink in for a while, even after Pentecost.

It was after an angel told the Gentile centurion Cornelius to send for Peter that Peter said, "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34-35 ESV)

And while Peter was still speaking to Cornelius and the crowd that there, "the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles." (Acts 10:44-45 ESV)

Later the apostle Paul provided a full-throated affirmation of the gospel being meant for the gentiles when he said, "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.' So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. [...] There is neither Jew nor Greek, ... for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:8-9, 28 ESV)

And John was given the ultimate vision of shared heavenly glory: "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Rev. 7:9-10 ESV)

<https://witness.lcms.org/2022/epiphany-the-other-christmas/>

January 2023

† denotes Holy Communion celebrated during Worship

Church Nursery opens @ 8:00 am Sunday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1 10:00am One Combined Worship† - in the Sanctuary 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 5:00pm HS Youth Night	2 Campus Closed	3 7:00am PS Ext Care (T-F) 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting	4 8:45am Preschool (W-Th) 10:30am Bible Study 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (W-F) 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Adult Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation	5 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	6 Epiphany	7
8 Installation of Church Officers 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	9 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 10:00am LWML Meeting (mingle 9:30-10:00) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	10 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education meeting	11 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Adult Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation	12 8:30 9:30 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	13 MS Winter youth gathering	14 MS Winter youth gathering 2:00pm KTT "Be U" event
15 Newsletter deadline MS Winter youth gathering 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	16 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (T-F)	17 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting	18 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Adult Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation	19 8:30 9:30 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Vestry meeting	20	21 6:30am Young Adult Dinner - offsite
22 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship 10:45am Preschool Sunday	23 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	24 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting	25 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Adult Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation	26 8:30 9:30 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	27	28
29 Stewardship Sunday 8:15am Traditional Worship & FBL† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship 12:00pm Voters meeting	30 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	31 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise Class 9:30am Staff meeting	1 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Adult Bible study 6:15pm Confirmation	2 8:30 9:30 11 Exercise Class 10:00am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	3	4



FaithLinks dinners will resume
January 11, 2023 at 5:30pm



- Jan 1 Mike Widmar
- Jan 2 Michele Braswell
- Jan 2 Dakota Carlson
- Jan 2 Tommy Livingston
- Jan 2 Jordan Miller
- Jan 2 Carol Morgan
- Jan 3 Joan McRae
- Jan 4 Julia Herda
- Jan 4 Vi Pitts
- Jan 5 Sandra Davis
- Jan 11 Rebecca Mitchell
- Jan 11 Christina Schmelter
- Jan 12 Kent Locker
- Jan 13 Nancy Jones
- Jan 17 Erin Kretzschar

- Jan 18 Lanny Yocom
- Jan 19 John Smith
- Jan 20 Billie Seagle
- Jan 21 Mary Nelson
- Jan 21 Heather Cevallos
- Jan 22 Trevor Southers
- Jan 23 Nathan Miller
- Jan 24 Nettie Goehler
- Jan 26 John Covington
- Jan 27 Walt Hartley
- Jan 27 Buddy Jones
- Jan 27 Sonja Herfurth
- Jan 27 Ella Jordan-Holmes
- Jan 29 T.J. Parrotta
- Jan 29 Mollye Hellebrand
- Jan 30 Bryant Carlson



- Jan 3 Jacob & Heather Cevallos
- Jan 15 Tim & Sonja Herfurth
- Jan 16 Josh & Ariel and Holway-Jones
- Jan 16 James & Denise Thrasher
- Jan 19 Mike & Joan McRae
- Jan 30 Del & Sandra Davis

God's Blessings
on your
Special Day!



Meet us in the Parlor
every Thursday at 11am.
Bring a friend!



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

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

	January 1 One Service 10am	January 8	January 15	January 22 Preschool Sunday	January 29 Stewardship Sunday
Elders	8:15am Tim Nave	Bill Darwin	Joseph Woodbury	Tim Nave	Bill Darwin
Ushers	8:15am Ron Neuendorf Mike Ater Bob Seibert Open	Graham Peebles James Thrasher Michael Kimmett Matthew Kimmett	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Micky Whiteside Mike Widmar	Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Roy Weiland Ron Neuendorf Mike Ater Bob Seibert
Acolytes	8:15am Volunteer needed	Katelyn	Owen	Emma	Katelyn
A/V Techs	8:15am Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Rick Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Rich Maschke
Readers	8:15am Jeff Pittman	Rhonda Reece	Nancy Neuendorf	Open	Open
Sanctuary Flowers	Open	Open	Open	Open	Neuendorf

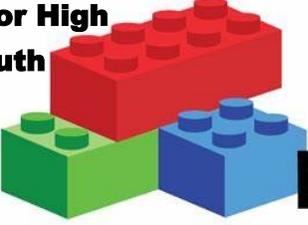
Altar Guild for January: Stephanie Holway and Helga Daniel **Counters for January: Becky Ballentine and Rebecca Mitchell**

Elders	10:45am		Tim Herfurth	Ron Fritze	Gary Nagy	Roy Weiland
Host families	10:45am		Herfurth family	McRae family	Morgan family	Atkins family
A/V Techs	10:45am		Gilchrist	Ringer	Herfurth	Herfurth

Thank you  Thank you very much to everyone for the cards, gifts, and warm wishes at Christmas. Your expressions of Christian love mean so much. Thank you again, and God's blessings always in Christ our Savior. In Him,
The Kretzschars

2023 Junior High Winter Youth Gathering

LEGO and Let God!



January 13-15, 2023 Trusting God Can Be Hard.

Lake Forest Ranch At the Gathering
Macon MS Youth will discover...

Please pray for our 4 Middle School Students and 3 Mentors attending!

Why, Where, and How Can God Be Trusted.

And how to...
LEGO and LET GOD!



2022 Year-to-Date Average Attendance

In-church attendees 114

Facebook sign-ins 20



Current Loan
Balance: **\$239,870**

Financial Plan Activity thru November 30, 2022

YTD FirstFruits Giving: \$ 405,569 *Goal YTD: \$413,750*

YTD Total Expenses: - \$ 457,166

 - \$ 52,597

PPP funds applied + \$ 17,223

Plan Activity thru Nov - \$ 35,374 *Giving is behind YTD!*

Thanks to all for faithful giving in-person, by mail, and online.
Online Giving is greatly encouraged!

Currently, 35% of our Givers give safely online; to join them, go to the [website](http://www.StPaulsDec.com), download the app,



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



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!

St. Paul's Legacy Endowment Commitments to Date

	Cash Balance	Future Commitments
3rd Quarter 2022	\$6,000	\$0
Total to Date 9/30/2022	\$9,000	\$0

CELEBRATING St. Paul's is Celebrating its 125th Anniversary Celebration

125 YEARS

October 8, 2023

In preparation, Ron Fritze and Beth Hornish are leading us through our history in preparation for this grand celebration.

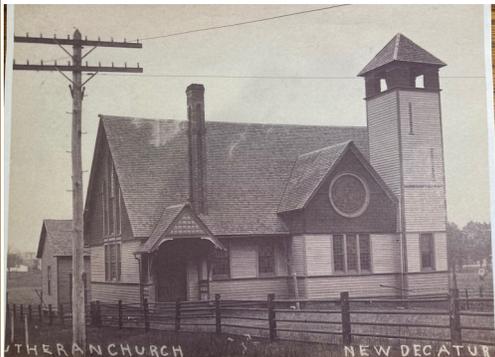
Anyone wishing to participate in its planning may contact Beth or Ron!

ST PAUL'S GET ITS FIRST BETH-EL

Praise the Lord!
 Praise the name of the Lord, give praise,
 O Servants of the Lord,
 who stand in the house of the Lord,
 in the courts of the house of our God.

Psalm 135, vs. 1-2

After the St. Paul's congregation was founded in 1898 with twenty-five charter members, it began to grow. The names of some people serving on the earliest committees of the church were not on the list of the twenty-five charter members. Clearly new members were joining St. Paul's. Growing membership meant meetings for services in the homes of members were becoming increasingly cramped. The need for a church building was becoming indisputably obvious. On 6 November 1900, the congregational president George Feyerabed appointed a building committee consisting of Ben Scheider along with Heinrich Papenburg, the secretary of the congregation, and Jacob Vogeles, the treasurer. After conducting several studies, the committee presented their findings to the voters' meeting on 6 January 1901. At that point, another committee was formed to determine how a building could be acquired. Ben Scheider continued on the new committee and was joined by Louis Ellner, the new congregational treasurer and Max Mittweide. The second committee quickly identified an existing church building that was available for purchase. It was a Congregational Church located on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Sherman Street. It belonged to The Congregational Church's Mission Organization of New York. That church was built in 1880 when the national Congregational Church was hoping to plant a new church in Decatur. That effort failed and the church was empty and unused.



At that time, the area around the church building was known as Albany or New Decatur and so was not part of the city of Decatur. That area was located along Sixth Avenue and the

streets of Sherman, Grant, and Johnson among others was a developing residential area. At the time, there was an influx of people from the Northeast into the

Decatur area which explains how streets ended up being named after Grant and Sherman even though it was located in a deep South town. It also meant that the German immigrants of St. Paul's were not the only strangers in a strange land. Most of the homes on Sherman Street date from the late 1890s to the 1920s. Photos of the church show there was a lot of undeveloped land around it. So as St. Paul's grew so did the neighborhood.

On 24 February 1901, the congregation of St. Paul's in a meeting with twelve members present unanimously voted to purchase the Congregational Church. The purchase price was \$1600. St. Paul's made a \$200 down payment with an annual payment of \$100 at 5% interest. Although this purchase price for the church building might seem ridiculously low to people living in the early 21st century, it is important to remember that wages were similarly small. St. Paul's initially paid its first pastor W. G. Hussmann \$450 a year which was quickly increased to \$600 a year. The members of the congregation were probably earning similar salaries. Railroad workers were relatively well paid compared with other workers. Their job security was also more stable and they had to contend with fewer layoffs. Still, the commitment and expectation of shown growth by St. Paul's members reflects their bold and faithful view of the future.

The new church property included parsonage right next to it. Pastor Hussmann held a school there. The current proud owner of this historic building told us that the house initially had a large room for the school's classroom. Remember, this was still an era where one-room schoolhouses were common. The parsonage was renovated later to divide the large classroom into more homey smaller rooms as the school was shutdown after the departure of Hussmann. This church on Sherman Street would be the home for St. Paul's for the next approximately sixty years. In fact, St. Paul's first home still survives and is now used by the Vintage Faith non-denominational church.

Ron Fritze and Beth Hornish



What year was this picture taken? Can you name any faces? Submit your answers to the Church Office mailbox!



Afterschool Care

Be U Monthly Event

Ashley Davis, our BE U Coordinator, arranged for us to visit Millie's Cuisine. After discussing facts about Kenya, we enjoyed a delicious Kenyan meal and made our own dessert.



KTT Inc was entertained by our Cajon drummers at our annual Christmas party, led by Aaron Plunkett, our percussion instructor.



Mrs. Wendy, our Girl Circle teacher, always plans the best parties for the 7-10 year-olds. There's a party for every holiday it seems. The boys of all ages complain how it isn't fair and plead for a boy's group. Volunteers are welcome! Contact me for details.



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



A huge thank you to all of the congregation members who have volunteered in our Preschool ministry this year. Some have given financially, others have given their time, and many have kept us in prayer. THANK YOU ALL!!!

Enjoy some December pics:



Update on Ms. Kristy

Ms. Kristy has been released from the hospital and is at her sister's house. She is still extremely weak and has a long recovery ahead of her. She wanted everyone to know how much she and her family appreciate the cards, food, and most importantly, the prayers during her hospitalizations and surgery. We will continue to pray for complete recovery and healing.



We are really thankful for our preschool staff and are very appreciative of their smiles, devotion, and love they give to our students.

Happy New Year to All!



Nancy Neuendorf, Director
(256) 353-1353

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

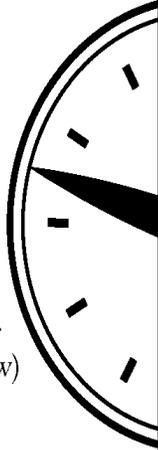
COUNTDOWN TO THE

New Year

Celebrate the blessings of the previous year and the hope of the New Year with this fun party idea and craft.

What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bags or colorful bags
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)
- Inexpensive prizes or treats (see ideas below)



What you do:

1. Before New Year's Eve, assemble a bag for every hour before midnight that you plan to celebrate.
2. Use construction paper and markers to make a clock with a different time for each bag.
3. Glue a clock onto each bag.
4. Decorate the bags with stickers or other designs.
5. Fill the bags with inexpensive prizes or treats, each accompanied by a Bible verse. Here are a few suggestions:
 - Plastic party-favor watches ("The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" Psalm 121:8, NIV.)
 - Bookmarks ("Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture" 1 Timothy 4:13, NIV.)
 - Small notepads and pencils ("Let love and faithfulness never leave you ... write them on the tablet of your heart" Proverbs 3:3, NIV.)
 - Sweet treats ("Taste and see that the LORD is good" Psalm 34:8, NIV.)
 - Party noisemaker, in a bag to be opened at midnight ("Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth" Psalm 98:4, NRSV.)
6. Open each bag at the time shown on its clock.

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