



Messenger

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

August 2024

Member Church of the ELCA

PS – A WORD FROM PASTOR STAN

PERU 2024 – The Gulf Coast Synod and the LaCrosse Wisconsin Synod are sponsoring a mission trip to Peru from August 1 to 11, 2024. That is this month. My wife, the Rev. Kris Crawford, and I have signed on to go on this mission trip. We are excited about going on another mission trip out of the country. We went to Kenya in East Africa in 2001 soon after we got married.

We fly out of Houston on August 1st with Bishop Mike and several others from our synod. We will be joined by a group from the LaCrosse Wisconsin Synod. We will fly to Lima for several days. There we will participate in a Youth Festival on Saturday, August 3rd, and then worship in the Lutheran churches there on Sunday.

I am looking forward to reconnecting with our companion church in Lima. Much has changed in the last few years, because of Covid and other issues. Peru was hard hit by Covid. The president of their national church stepped down because of Covid. The new president is Ofelia Davila. There have also been pastoral changes in that time. We may have also been reassigned to a new church, because of issues in our former companion congregation. I hope to connect with the new leadership and set up communications between them and our members here at St. Paul.

We will spend a couple more days in Lima sightseeing and getting acquainted. On Wednesday, August 7th, we will travel to Cusco, which is at over 11,000 feet in elevation. It is winter in Peru, so we will see highs in the 60's and lows in Lima of 50's, but 30's in Cusco. The Bishop said to come with layers to put on and take off as the weather changes.

In Cusco, we will visit the churches and ministries there. We will also take a side trip to Machu Picchu, the famous Incan ruins. We will return to Lima on Saturday, August 10th and catch our flight back to Houston, arriving on Sunday morning. What we are doing with the churches in Peru is called accompaniment. We are called to walk with them, provide advice and resources when asked, and always pray with and for them and their ministry in Peru.

The church council has graciously agreed to pay my expenses for this trip. I thank them and you for this opportunity. While I am gone to Peru, you will hear from Kinnon Falk, who is a deacon at Kindred Lutheran in Houston. We recently helped Kindred with needed repairs and support for their ministry in the community. He has a wonderful story which he shared at our Synod Assembly. Pastor Tracey Breashears Schultz will also be here to preside at communion. She is the Bishop's Assistant for the Call Process and other responsibilities. On Sunday, August 11, Pastor Scott Cigich will be at St. Paul to preside at services.

Kris and I will set up a time to tell you about our time in Peru after we return.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

August 2024

As we approach the end of another summer break, many young people will be heading back to the classrooms and face a new year of challenges in their lives. We pray that they open their hearts and minds and recognize the opportunities that lie ahead. We also pray for the teachers, staff and administration as another school year begins. We ask your blessings upon them as they show the love and compassion to their students, just as Jesus did for us.

We give thanks for allowing our LYO to have had a safe and rewarding trip to Missouri. A debt of gratitude goes out to all of the junior and adult sponsors who were a part of this journey. A special thank you to Caleb and Ashleigh Parks for coordinating all aspects of this trip. This trip presented a wonderful opportunity for all in attendance to grow their faith.

Finally, we wish Pastor Stan and his wife safe travels as they will soon be departing for Peru. They will be part of a group from our synod, as well as another group from a synod in Wisconsin. We pray that the work they will do continues to support the mission efforts of the ELCA, and that we can continue to be a part of this ministry for years to come.

Sincerely,

Paul Mikula

Congregational Council President



LYO about to depart for Summer Trip to Missouri.



Pray for our Shut-Ins and those in nursing homes and assisted living.



Kay Dippel

Florence Otto, Monument Hill

Gladys Weber

Juanita Frels, Care Inn

JC Spacek

AC and Annazell Von Minden, Jefferson Place

Annie and Wilburn Hackebeil

Grace Robilio, Jefferson Place

Jenelle Oeltjendiers

Marianne Williams, Jefferson Place

Dorothy Stolle

Betty Schmidt, Schulenburg Regency

Dogie Keith

Mary Ann Butler, Westminster, Austin

Joy Skelton

Gloria Baumbach, Holly Hall Center, Houston

Albert Loehr, Jr.

Mel Cameron, Concordia, Bella Vista AR

Myrtle Friemel

SAVE THE DATE!

LYO Stockholder Meal

Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

The youth will report at the meal about their adventures on the LYO Summer Trip.



What's Happening at St. Paul!

TACKY TUESDAY will meet Tuesday, August 20. Please join us as we pin hems, cut batting, and tie knots in quilts for Lutheran World Relief Quilts. No experience necessary. We will have a pot luck meal at 11:30 am. All are invited.

FRIENDS IN FAITH, our women's group, is not meeting in August.

FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group, is not meeting in August.

HANDBELL CHOIR and CHOIR—is not meeting in August. They will resume practice in September. A new schedule will be announced at that time.

PRAISE BAND - will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays in the sanctuary.

CHURCH COUNCIL— will meet Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

LYO—our youth group for high school students will resume meeting weekly in September. They will be reporting on their Summer Trip at the Stock Holder meal on August 10, 2024.

St. Paul Income/Expense Report for June, 2024				
INCOME	June	AMOUNT	EXPENSE	Amount
Offering Envelopes			Benevolence to Synod transfer	4,786.60
Includes Rent 800.00	6/2	6,103.00	KINDRED GIFT transfer	15,000.00
	6/9	4,217.00	AMEN - forward donations transfer	1,715.00
	6/16	4,533.75	Salaries/Payroll Expense	12,614.15
	6/23	2,092.00	Janitorial supplies	198.12
	6/27	2,905.00	Kitchen Supplies	52.44
My Eoffering		8,178.60	Landscape/Yard care	750.00
			LYO Background checks	193.30
			Meals for St. Paul Friends	266.00
Oltmann Endowment		714.28	Office Supplies/Equipment	623.56
Gau Endowment		7,361.60	Outreach/Social ministry	226.20
			Postage	38.09
Transfer from			Property - Picnic benches	1,650.00
Renovation Acct		20,115.40	Property - tree removal	3,000.00
			Property -Paving parking lot	10,385.40
			Software Expense	87.38
			Stewardship	20.00
			Telephone/Internet	387.19
			Utilities	1,301.75
Interest		6.01	Website yearly contract	1,200.00
TOTAL		\$56,226.64	TOTAL	54,495.18

AUGUST Birthdays

DATE	NAME
1	Dawson Loehr, Bamba Scott
2	Gloria Raschke, Ashleigh Parks, Tori Shimek
3	Linda Morrison, Shelly Pietsch
4	Zoey Staal
7	Brianna Janda, Tim Knesek, Kay Marburger, Cole Wolff
8	Abigail Roscher, Colton Roscher
10	Don Koether, Cody McGraw
11	Janet Bayer, Steve Toddy
13	Kylie Childs, April Hensel
16	Cody Hengst
17	Kara Koether
20	George Eilert, Jackson Rau, Landon West
21	Anna Karisch
22	Dorothy Stolle
23	Tony Miori, Lizzie Placke
24	Jean McHenry, Tommy Neuman
25	Anita Barnett
26	James Elias, Kendall Rohde
27	Kyndal Kutac
28	Brenda Ahlschlager, Soledad Radcliff
30	Ann Raborn, Glenn Eilert
31	Jackson Wolff

NAME	DATE	YEARS
David & Patty Ehler	Aug. 3	50
Tony & Tracye Jones	Aug. 3	39
Kevin & Amanda Lamza	Aug. 3	22
Darrell & Lori Moerbe	Aug. 15	37
Shawn & Ann Raborn	Aug. 15	37
Gary & Kathie Nitsche	Aug. 17	49
Atlan & Jeanette Citzler	Aug. 19	52
Todd & Melissa Oehlke	Aug. 22	4
Chris & Danna Radcliff	Aug. 22	26
Melvin & Dorothy Schilling	Aug. 22	70
Beth & Matthew Buss	Aug. 24	5
Ronnie & Bonnie Schielack	Aug. 24	50
Herb & Elaine Friemel	Aug. 30	38

Anniversaries AUGUST

August Worship Assistants

	9:00 a.m.
8/4	
Ushers	John Acosta, Lynnette Boyd, John D. Marburger, Billy & Christie Nitsche
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Gloria Raschke
Flowers	David & Patti Ehler for 50th Wedding Anniversary
Fellowship Refreshments - Annette Citzler	
8/11	
Ushers	Dianne Lude, Faye Bresan, Ginger Muesse, Janet Coronado, Wendy McCredie
Lectors	Dianne Lude
Altar Guild	Janet Coronado
Flowers	Jackie Skelton
Fellowship Refreshments OPEN	
8/18	
Ushers	Atlan Citzler, David & Patti Ehler, Don Koether, Bradley Loehr
Lectors	To Be Determined
Altar Guild	Ginger Muesse
Flowers	Annette Citzler
Fellowship Refreshments OPEN	
8/25	
Ushers	Glenn Eilert, George Eilert, Gary Anders, Katie Anders
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Sharon Elias
Flowers	Ronnie & Bonnie Schielack for 50th Anniversary
Fellowship Refreshments OPEN	



**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
2024 Second Chance Work Schedule**

August 27-31

October 8-14; November 19-25

Second Chance hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

& Mondays, 8 a.m., Address: 841 S. Reynolds St.; La Grange

Tuesday-Thursday are spent receiving, pricing and putting items out to sell; Fridays and Saturdays are the days the store is open to the public; and Monday mornings are for straightening up the store for the next volunteers.

***Thank you to all volunteers and
we always welcome new volunteers!***

St. Paul Coordinators: Carolyn Buchanek, Patty Ehler, JoLene Hughes, Linda Morrison,
Ginger Muesse and Gloria Raschke
CONTACT NUMBER: 979-249-6328

2024 AMEN volunteer schedule

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mondays, Address: 851 S. Reynolds St.; La Grange

August 5

is St. Paul day to work at AMEN

**(Also Thursday, August 8, 2024 to accept food donations ONLY
10:00 am—12:00 pm)**

**Other Dates for St. Paul at AMEN in 2024:
October 21 and December 2**

St. Paul's AMEN Coordinator is Rebecca Dittrich. Please contact her at 512-762-1276 if you would like to volunteer. Or you can email Rebecca at: rebecca.dittrich11@gmail.com.

REMINDER— The second Sunday of the month is designated for collections for the AMEN food pantry. Green baskets are at portico entrance and porch of the church office. And a grocery basket is located in the Narthex for your donations.

“Movies at St. Paul”

At its meeting July 16, 2024, the congregational council approved a budget for acquiring a license from Church Video to show films without charge to our members and to the public as part of our ministry. Below is part of my letter to the council, outlining the rationale for this initiative. Now that the council has affirmed this ministry, I invite folks to join me in making it a reality. If you experience a call to participate in this ministry in any way, I hope you will contact me at 213-509-5863 or lgs78956@hotmail.com. Many thanks --Leonard Schulze

Proposal for a Community Outreach Program

As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, St. Paul “in the name of Christ cares, shares, and provides Christian growth opportunity in our community.” Since its founding in 1903, the congregation has provided opportunities for worship, service, and spiritual growth not only to its members, but to the La Grange community. A hallmark of our ministry has been our commitment to collaboration with other churches in the community to strengthen our services to those in need. Many volunteers regularly devote time and energy to A.M.E.N. (Area Ministries for Emergency Needs), the Second Chance Emporium, and youth programs (Lutheran Youth Organization and Vacation Bible School in coordination with Lutherhill Ministries).

Offering a quality experience of good movies, accompanied by exploration of their “universal and undeniably persuasive and compelling language” can position St. Paul to witness to the aesthetic and spiritual resources available in cinema. It should be seen as a way of sharing our “evangelical” calling in a way that is generous, meeting people where they live and encouraging them to broaden and deepen their horizons. As folks experience our hospitality in these ways, they may be inspired to find out more about us.

Features of such a program should be carefully considered. In order to assure consistency and quality, I suggest that the following should be provided for:

1. A “Movie Guild” consisting of 3-5 or more members of St. Paul (and other congregations?) to select movies to be screened, and to organize forums for discussing them. This “guild” should provide for publicity and invitations to other congregations to join in encouraging their members to participate in our program. Members of this “guild” could also expand into publishing reviews of forthcoming showings in *The Fayette County Record* and on Facebook, as well as announcements on local radio.
2. St. Paul is in the process of acquiring a Church Video License. A CVLI license would also enable us to explore creative ways to use films in other areas of our life together, such as Adult Education and Sunday School.
3. If there is support for such a ministry, I would work with other members to identify what start-up and ongoing expenses would be involved (e.g., CVLI licensing). On the basis of these data, I recommend that we develop a budget line to support this community project. Our visibility in the community would, I am confident, be significantly enhanced.

August 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1		2 6pm Playground work	3 8am Playground work
4 9am Worship 10:30 am Adult Education	5 8:30 am St Paul at AMEN	6	7 7 pm Praise Band	8 10:00 am St Paul at AMEN		9	10 LYO Stock holder meal
11 9 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Education	12	13	14 7 pm Praise Band	15 LGISD CLASSES RESUME		16	17
18 9 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Education	19	20 8:30 am Tacky Tuesday 6:00 pm Church Council	21 7 pm Praise Band	22		23 September NEWSLETTER Deadline	24
25 9am Worship 10:30 am Adult Education	26	27 St. Paul @ Second Chance	28 7 pm Praise Band	29		30 St. Paul @ Second Chance	31 St. Paul @ Second Chance

St. Paul 2024 Congregation Council

Paul Mikula, President (phone 979-250-3362)

Scott Toensing, Vice-President

Donnie Dippel, Treasurer

Bamba Scott, Secretary

John Acosta, Mission/Peru

Atlan Citzler, Jr., Stewardship/Finance/Endowment

Glenn Eilert, Outreach/Social Ministry

Michael Mach, Worship/Technology

Dianne Lude, Youth/Parish Education

Todd Oehlke, Property

Parish Office Hours:

Monday—Friday

8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Office Phone: 979-968-5657

Fellowship Hall Phone: 979-968-9603

www.stpaulg.org

stpaul@cvctx.com



St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor

Cell: 830-203-4442

Email: larsen.stanleya@gmail.com

Ruth Poncik, *Office Manager*

Sherise Davis, *Organist*

Jean McHenry, *Organist*

Cindy Pundt, *Organist*

Kathy Toensing, *Adult Choir/Praise Band*

**Carolyn Bennetsen, Mannie Fritsch-Schmid,
and Paul Mikula, *Stephen Ministers***

MESSENGER AUGUST 2024

Monthly Newsletter of St Paul Church

St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

P O Box 567/427 S Washington Street

La Grange, Texas 78945

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