



# Messenger

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

**February 2024**

Member Church of the ELCA

## PS – A WORD FROM PASTOR STAN

### Lent 2024 – “You Shall Love the Lord your God”

In Mark 12, a scribe comes to ask Jesus, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answers, “The first is ‘Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength’” (Mark 12:28-29). Jesus responds to the scribe’s question with words from the **Shema**, the passage from Deuteronomy 6 that is recited daily by many of the Jewish faith. These words form a covenant between God and God’s people and show us a way to respond to this God who so extravagantly loves us through the cross.

This will be the focus of our Wednesday Lenten worship. We will be getting back to the basics of our faith. That is the traditional focus of Lent. In the early church, Lent was a time for those becoming Christians to learn about the faith. It was a time of instruction in the faith for them. It seemed good to the whole church to join them in remembering and renewing their own understanding of our shared faith.

In this time of reflection and learning, it is good to minimize our distractions. Starting on Ash Wednesday, the people were asked for the season of Lent to not eat sweets or anything with yeast in it. This led to the tradition of Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, when you ate or tossed out all those foods you did not want to have around during Lent. We have extended that time, the time from the Epiphany to Ash Wednesday, to be a time of celebration and parades – the whole Mardi Gras experience. My wife and I lived on the major Mardi Gras parade route in Shreveport, with huge parades on the two Saturdays before Ash Wednesday. It was an all day celebration even though the parade came by our house in the evening. People arrived early in the morning to stake out their spot and the city closed the street in front of our house around noon.

Let us use this Lent to prepare ourselves for Easter and renew our faith as we help others come to faith in Jesus Christ. We need to remember that Jesus was there in the celebrating, in the teaching, and in all the moments of peoples lives as they came to meet him.

We will gather on Ash Wednesday and each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the morning and at 6:00 p.m. in the evening for worship. We will have the imposition of ashes and communion on Ash Wednesday. We will have a simple service on the other Wednesday mornings and use Holden Evening Prayer for our evening worship.

Come and see as we worship together during Lent.



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



- |                             |                                             |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Kay Dippel                  | Annazell Von Minden, Care Inn               |
| Gladys Weber                | Juanita Frels, Care Inn                     |
| Myrtle Friemel              | Joy Skelton, Monument Hill                  |
| Edwin Votaw                 | Florence Otto, Monument Hill                |
| Annie and Wilburn Hackebeil | Grace Robilio, Jefferson Place              |
| Jenelle Oeltjendiers        | Marianne Williams, Jefferson Place          |
| Dorothy Stolle              | Betty Schmidt, Jefferson Place              |
| Dogie Keith                 | Verlene Hobratschk, The Towers, Smithville  |
| Hertha Kruse                | Mary Ann Butler, Westminster, Austin        |
| JC Spacek                   | Gloria Baumbach, Holly Hall Center, Houston |
|                             | Fay Braun, The Continental, Austin TX       |
|                             | Mel Cameron, Concordia, Bella Vista AR      |

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**Annual Giving Statements: PLEASE REVIEW YOURS!!!**

2023 financial giving summary statements were mailed to St. Paul contributors a couple of weeks ago. PLEASE REVIEW YOURS!!! If there are errors, please call the office (979-968-5657) and talk to Ruth Poncik about getting a corrected one issued to you! [Note that the IRS requires that US income tax filers have this statement in hand for any donations more than \$249 before filing an income tax return on which you itemize deductions.\*]

Thank you for helping us to assure our giving records are in order and the summary statements are an accurate report of your annual giving to this congregation! Your generosity is worthy of our gratitude AND our accurate reporting back to you!

[\*Source: IRS.gov website]

# *What's Happening at St. Paul!*

**MONDAY MORNING QUILTERS** will not meet in February.

**TACKY TUESDAY** will meet Tuesday, February 20, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. 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. This is wonderful fellowship, wonderful mission. All are invited.

**FRIENDS IN FAITH, our women's group,** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2024 at the home of Laurie Janda, 2707 Rocky Creek Rd, with Faith Frerichs leading the discussion.

**FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group,** will meet on Monday, February 12, at the home of Weldon Hartmann, 5324 Sandrock Road. Call Frank Teykl if you have any questions at: 979-249-5575.

**BELL CHOIR** - will meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays in the sanctuary, until the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, for which new starting time will be announced.

**CHOIR**—will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays in the sanctuary after Lenten services.

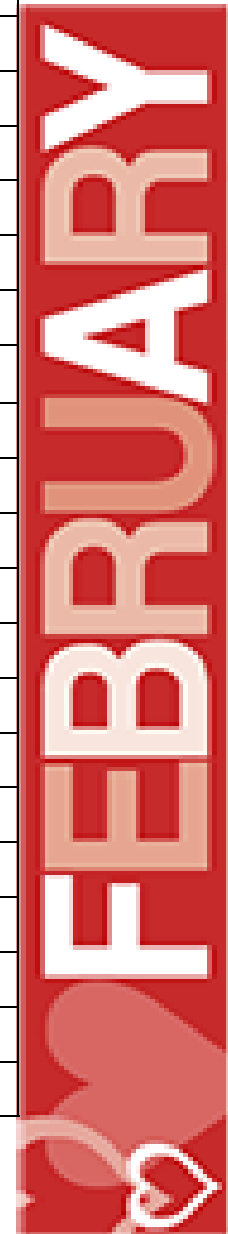
**PRAISE BAND** - will meet at 8:00 pm on Wednesdays in the sanctuary.

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

**LYO**—will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Youth enjoy a meal and fellowship before devotional time and reflection. Sponsors are working on some special weekend activities and possibly a retreat weekend also. The youth and sponsors enjoy members of the congregation visiting and developing a relationship with the group. If you would like to provide a meal for the group, that would be greatly appreciated. Please contact either Caleb Parks (512-944-7859) or Ashleigh Parks (409-201-5489) to get on the schedule for a meal and how many youth to prepare for.

**ASH WEDNESDAY Worship is on February 14,** with services at 10 AM and 6 PM, and Lenten worship will continue at those times throughout Lent until Holy Week, for which service times will be announced in the March Newsletter.

1	Jessica Gross
2	Kaci Paden
3	Faye Graeber, Hanna Oehlke
4	Todd Wolff
5	Harvey Busch, Lisa Moellenberndt
6	Chloe Coufal, Ann Rigden
10	Linda Diers, Sara Koehl, Dalton Staal
11	Richard Schmidt
12	John Blaschke, Owen Dockery, Royce Keilers, Ginger Muesse
13	Jeanenne Klesel
14	Royce Friemel, J. David Marburger, Cheryl Rohde
15	Crew Schielack
16	Halle Davis, Carmen Gross
18	Robyn Boehm, Laura Wolff
20	Dogie Keith, Hayden Mach
21	Theodore Dittrich, Wes Hengst
22	Marva Lester, Faye Rau, Dennis Zbranek
23	Janice Homeyer
24	James Brewer
25	Gunner Jurek
26	Samuel Blaschke, Brett Wolff



Birthdays

## FEBRUARY



NAME	DATE	YEARS
Marc and Stephanie Fitzpatrick	2/8	32
Gary and Connie Prause	2/14	43
Hayley and Cameron Saunders	2/14	10
Dennis and Nancy Zbranek	2/17	24
David and Kaci Paden	2/20	14
Brooke and Benjamn Sustr	2/20	8

# February Worship Assistants

	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, February 4, 2024</b>	
Ushers:	George Eilert, Gary Anders,
	Frank and Lisa Moellenberndt
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Sharon Elias
Fellowship Refreshments	Open
Flowers	Open
<b>Sunday, February 11, 2024</b>	
Ushers:	Ken and Linda Diers,
	JoLene and Gerald Hughes
Lectors	Lloyd Jewell
Altar Guild	JoLene and Gerald Hughes
Fellowship Refreshments	Annette Citzler
Flowers	Open
<b>Wednesday, February 14, 2024</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
Ushers AM	
PM	
Lectors	
Altar Guild	Faye Bresan
<b>Sunday, February 18, 2024</b>	
Ushers:	John Acosta and Lynette Boyd
	Chuck and Karen Bellue
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Sharon Elias
Fellowship Refreshments	Open
Flowers	Open
<b>Wednesday, February 21, 2024</b>	
Ushers AM	
PM	
<b>Sunday, February 25, 2024</b>	
Ushers:	Billy and Christie Nietsche
	Caleb and Ashley Parks
Lectors	FrankTeykl
Altar Guild	Ginger Muesse
Fellowship Refreshments	Wendy McCredie
Flowers	Open
<b>Wednesday, February 28, 2024</b>	
Ushers	

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

***January 30—February 5***

***March 12-18; April 23-29; June 4– 10; July 16-22***

***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**

**February 12, 2024**

**is St. Paul day to work at AMEN**

**(Also Thursday February 15, 2024 to accept food donations ONLY)**

**10:00 am—12:00 pm**

**Other Dates for St. Paul at AMEN in 2024:**

**April 1, May 20, July 1, August 5, 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](mailto: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.

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 St Paul @ Second Chance	3 St. Paul @ Second Chance
4 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	5 8:00 am St. Paul at Second Chance 6:30 pm Friends in Faith	6	7 8:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm LYO 8:00 pm Praise Band	8	9	10
11 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	12 8:30 am St. Paul @ AMEN 6:30 Fishers of Men	13	14 8:30 am Bible Study 5:10 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm LYO 8:00 pm Praise Band	15 10:00 am St. Paul @ AMEN	16	17
18 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	19	20 8:30 am Tacky Tuesday 6:00 pm Church Council	21 8:30 am Bible Study 5:10 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm LYO 8:00 pm Praise Band	22	23	24
25 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	26	27	28 8:30 am Bible Study 5:10 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm LYO 8:00 pm Praise Band	29		

## St. Paul 2024 Congregation Council

**Paul Mikula**, President 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](http://www.stpaulg.org)**

**[stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto: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](mailto:larsen.stanleya@gmail.com)**

**Ruth Poncik, *Office Manager***

**Sherise Davis, *Organist***

**Jean McHenry, *Organist***

**Kathy Toensing, *Adult Choir/Praise Band Choir***

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

## MESSENGER FEBRUARY 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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