



Messenger

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

January 2024

Member Church of the ELCA

PS – A WORD FROM PASTOR STAN

Beginnings – You are beginning again with a new interim or transitional pastor, namely me. I am the Rev. Stanley Larson. My wife, the Rev. Kris Crawford, and I live in Gonzales. I am finding that commute a very scenic and easy drive. My cell phone and email are in the bulletin and should be included in this newsletter. You may reach out to me at any time if you have a need. I respond to Pastor, Pastor Stan, or Pastor Larson.

I have served in called positions in Kansas, Texas, and Louisiana; and interim positions in Arkansas and Texas. This is my sixth interim with my previous ones being in Presbyterian churches. I know you have had an interim pastor and been in the call process for some time. As any interim would be, I am here to take some of the pressure off of that process as it moves slowly. There is always a desire to make it move quicker but that goes with the possibility of making a decision just to have it over.

I began on December 1, the day after Ruth had her knee surgery, Fortunately, we had visited several times before her surgery. I look forward to working with her when she gets back to the office on a regular basis.

This is a time of transitions – transition to me as your interim, hopefully in the near future the transition of a new called pastor for St. Paul. In the meantime, we will continue to get acquainted and do ministry here together.

My wife and I are native Texans. I was born in Raymondville and grew up in Kenedy. My wife was born in Port Lavaca and spent almost thirty years in Victoria. Our three children and six grandchildren are all in Texas, most in the Houston area with some up near Longview.

My wife and I hope you had a joyous celebration for Christmas and are having a good start on the New Year.

TWELVTH NIGHT – EPIPHANY

Epiphany on January 6th marks the end of the season of Christmas. The popular song, The Twelve Days of Christmas, starts with Christmas Day and ends on Epiphany. Since it is a particular day of the year, we do not often get to celebrate it. But this year we will celebrate Epiphany on the first Sunday in January, the 7th. We will get to hear about the Magi/Wise Men who arrived with gifts for the Christ child.

Most of what we think we know about these people comes from the tradition of the church rather than from the Bible itself. Come and hear about the figures in our story of the birth of Jesus Christ.



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



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Kay Dippel | Annazell Von Minden, Care Inn |
| Gladys Weber | Florence Otto, Monument Hill |
| Juanita Frels | Aleyn Voss, Monument Hill |
| Myrtle Friemel | Joy Skelton, Monument Hill |
| Edwin Votaw | Fay Braun, The Continental, Austin TX |
| 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 |
| Hertha Kruse | Barbara Gest, Regency Nursing, Schulenburg |
| | Mel Cameron, Concordia, Bella Vista AR |

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES will be in the Narthex beginning the weekend of December 10, 2023.. If you do not find a box with your name, please let the Church Office know and one can be assigned to you.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE NEW BOXES UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2024.

NOTE: All offerings received by December 31 or postmarked by December 31 will be reflected on your 2023 Giving Statement.



What's Happening at St. Paul!

MONDAY MORNING QUILTERS will not meet in January.

TACKY TUESDAY will meet Tuesday, January 16 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, January 8, 2024 at the home of Ann Raborn, 198 S. Charles St, La Grange.

FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group, will have their weekend retreat on January 18—21, 2024—Thursday thru Sunday at Meiners Ranch. Royce Keilers and ALL Fishers of Men are hosts. 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.

CHOIR—will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays in the sanctuary.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL— will meet January 16, 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.

SAVE THE DATE—the Annual Meeting of the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church will be Sunday, January 28, 2024. Services will be at 10:00 with a meal following in the Fellowship Hall and then the meeting will begin at 11:45.

1	Sarah Ehler
2	Laurie Schneider
3	Caitlin Morgan, Sadie Schielack
4	Matthew Jaster, Brantley Koehl, Patti Weber
7	Caroline Wolff
8	Hayley Saunders, Cole Stork
9	Tammy Kutac
11	Charlotte Hagemann, Hertha Kruse
12	Gail Cook, Dannie Coufal, Glenn Davis, Amber Picard
13	Justin Anders, Elaine Halpain
14	Mark Brown, Alex Schielack
16	Rhonda Koether
17	Marilyn Gest
18	Todd Keilers, Cindy Schwertner
19	Tara Childs, Amalia Woolf
21	Darby Mueller, Michelle Martin, Edwin Votaw
22	Syndey Fritsch
23	Patrick Raborn, Deanna Toddy
24	Todd Oehlke, Leonard Schulze
26	Bradley Schielack, Laurie Stork
27	Kloe Kutach, Grace Robilio
28	Leroy Bennetsen
29	Alex Toensing
30	Laurie Boehm, Kate Fitzpatrick, An'Na Jaster
31	Stephanie Fitzpatrick

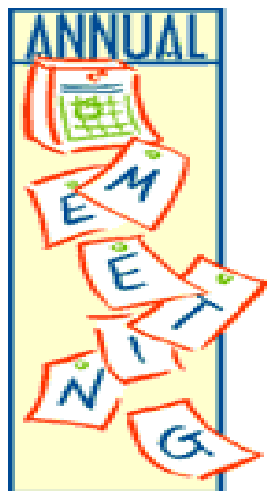
JANUARY Birthdays



NAME	DATE	YEARS
John Pineda and Bonnie Busch	1/8	24
Leroy and Carolyn Bennetsen	1/13	47
Bert and Jackie Gest	1/26	11

January Worship Assistants

Ann	9:00 a.m.
1/7	
Ushers	Caleb & Ashleigh Parks
	Billy & Christy Nietsche
Lectors	Leonard Schulze
Altar Guild	Gloria Raschke
Fellowship Refreshments	Open
Flowers	OPEN
1/14	
Ushers	John D. & Kay Marburger
	Kenny & Patti Weber
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Lisa Moellenberndt
Fellowship Refreshments	Open
Flowers	OPEN
1/21	
Ushers	Don Koether and Jackie Skelton
	James & Sharon Elias
Lectors	Dianne Lude
Altar Guild	JoLene & Gerald Hughes
Fellowship Refreshments	Open
Flowers	OPEN
1/28	ANNUAL MEETING @ 10:00 am
Ushers	David & Patty Ehler
	Frank & Sandra Teykl
Lectors	Praise Band
Fellowship Refreshments	NONE THIS WEEK
Altar Guild	Faye Bresan
Flowers	Annette Citzler



The Annual Meeting of the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Services that day will be at 10:00 with a meal to follow in the Fellowship Hall being prepared by the St. Paul Cooking Crew. The meal will consist of Fried Chicken and delicious sides.

The meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m. with the Annual meeting beginning at 11:45 a.m. Families are asked to bring a dessert to share. Please bring your copy of the Annual Report with you to the meeting.

Mailing of the Annual Report will be the week of January 10, 2024

Plan to attend the meeting to help plan for the future of St. Paul.

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

2024 AMEN volunteer schedule

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

February 7, 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

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.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School Budget Review and Ashley House 4:00 pm	1 Church Office Closed	2	3 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band 7:00	4	5	6
14 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	8 6:30 pm Friends in Faith	9 2:00 pm Altar Guild in Friendship Room	10 8:30 Bible Study 6:30 pm LYO NO MUSIC PRACTICE	11	12	13
21 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	15	16 8:30 am Tacky Tuesday 6:00 pm Church Council	17 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band	18 Fishers of Men Retreat thru 1/21 Meiners Ranch	19	20 CLEMONS WEDDING
28 10:00 Worship St. Paul Annual Meeting Following Meal @ 11:00	22	23	24 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band	25	26 February Newsletter Deadline	27
	29	30 St Paul @ Second Chance Thru 2/5	31 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band			

St. Paul 2023 Congregation Council

Karen Bellue, President (979)966-2889 call or text

Paul Mikula, Vice-President

Donnie Dippel, Treasurer

Bamba Scott, Secretary

Russell Dittrich, Mission/Peru

Atlan Citzler, Jr., Stewardship/Finance/Endowment

David Ehler, 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*

Kathy Toensing, *Adult Choir/Praise Band Choir*

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

MESSENGER JANUARY 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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