



Messenger

March 2023

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

AMEN + Let it be so!

God invites us to pray, Jesus teaches us to pray, and the Spirit intercedes when we have no words to pray. Prayer is God's holy invitation to give thanks and seek help each and every day. Throughout this season of Lent, we explore the discipline of prayer.

This theme will be explored with the Guest Pastors during their message each week of Lent.

March 1 – Pastor Jen Kindsvatter, Lutherhill Ministeries

“Let it be so – for me” (prayer of supplication).

Love is..... Responsive Reading: Psalm 86: 1-13.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-12

March 8 – Pastor Lemae Higgs, United Evangelical Lutheran Church, Swiss Alp

“Let it be so – for enough” (prayer of thanksgiving)

Manna, Quail, Water.... Responsive Reading: Psalm 100: 1-5.

Reading: Exodus 16: 1-18, 17: 1-7

March 15 – Pastor Jill Vivroux, Shared Lutheran Ministries

“Let it be so – for mercy” (prayer of confession)

Jonah..... Responsive Reading: Psalm 51: 1-12.

Reading: Jonah 2:1-10

March 22 – Pastor Stephanie Stark, St. John Lutheran Church, Cat Spring

“Let it be so – for others” (prayer of intercession)

Good Samaritan.... Responsive Reading: Matthew 5: 43-45.

Reading: Luke 10: 25-37

March 29 – Pastor Alan Kethan, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus

“Let it be so – forever” (prayer of adoration)

Lord's Prayer.... Responsive Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Reading: Luke 11: 1-13

Maundy Thursday, April 6 – Pastor Bill Sappenfield, St. Paul

“Let it be so – for direction” (prayer of listening)

Jeremiah.... Responsive Reading: Psalm 139: 7-14

Reading: Jeremiah 29: 1-13

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The season of Lent has arrived. *The ELCA website shared this...*

These 40 days are a season to reflect and remember, to look forward and ahead. These are not easy times for many of us. We know the challenges our world faces. Yet the season of Lent reminds us that God is not yet through with us or our world. Amid our own dependence on God, we know by faith that God is even now at work, drawing us toward the resurrection and restoration of the world.

Please take the time during this season to study, pray, reflect, and give of ourselves that we might find the peace of God's plan for each of us. Join your council in praying for the people of Saint Paul and our future as we spread His good news to others.

Our first council meeting of the new congregational year happened on Tuesday, February 21st. New council members were welcomed, and committee assignments were determined.

Karen Bellue, President

Paul Mikula, Vice President

Bamba Scott, Secretary

Donnie Dippel, Treasurer

David Ehler, Outreach/Social Ministry

Todd Oehlke, Property

Atlan Citzler, Finance/Memorials

Michael Mach, Worship/Technology

Russell Dittrich, Mission/Peru

Dianne Lude, Parish Education/Youth

Old Business:

A fourth and final Mission Investment Fund CD was approved to be moved locally where it will, along with the previous three CDs, earn nine times the interest rate at which it was previously invested.

A vote was passed to employ a couple to maintain flower beds on a quarterly basis.

LYO Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement Forms were discussed.

New Business:

A vote to support Circle of Love was passed.

Support for a Lutherhill fundraiser to be held at the Rutersville Sons of Herman Hall in July was extended. St. Paul and Shared Lutheran Ministries will host the event.

Discussion regarding congregational feedback on LGBTQIA marriage at Saint Paul occurred.

Council members were reminded that the congregation was asked, both at the January Annual Meeting and in the February Messenger if a congregational vote should be called to determine if LGBTQIA marriage would be performed at Saint Paul. Each member was able to share the number of people who contacted them, and the results of the question asked. Less than 10% of the congregation responded to the question by contacting the council and the overwhelming majority of those few was not to hold a vote. Therefore, no vote will be called at this time. This does not mean that in the future of our congregation this may not come to light again: it simply will not be done so now.

Shalom,

Karen B. Bellue, president

2023 Youth Day Camp (VBS)



This year our dates will be will be Monday June 26 – Friday June 30.

This summer campers will explore prayer with the theme: **“AMEN!”**

God invites us to pray, Jesus teaches us to pray, and the Spirit intercedes when we have no words to pray. Prayer is God’s holy invitation to give thanks and seek help each and every day. So let us pray!

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

More information will follow in future Messenger updates and weekly bulletins.

Easter Lilies

We will be ordering 16 potted lilies at Easter. You may donate in memory of or in honor of loved ones and your name will be listed in the bulletin. Please turn in the completed form and your check by Friday, March 31, 2023 to the church office, office drop box or offering plate. Please designate “EASTER LILIES” on the “for” line payment. The lilies may be taken home after services on Easter Day.

Your Name and a phone number PLEASE

In Memory/ In Honor Of



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



Kay Dippel

Juanita Frels

Myrtle Friemel

Annie and Wilburn Hackebeil

JoAn Heintschel

Eugene and Carolyn Hunger

Dogie Keith

Hertha Kruse

Joy Skelton

Edwin Votaw

Gladys Weber

Bea Rost

Jenelle Oeltjendiers

JC Spacek

Elroy Zimmermann

Florence Otto, Monument Hill

Aleyn Voss, Monument Hill

Fay Braun, The Continental Austin TX

Grace Robilio, Jefferson Place

Verlene Hobratschk, Jefferson Place

Betty Schmidt, Jefferson Place

Velrie Prause, Jefferson Place

Barbara Gest, Regency Nursing Schulenburg

Ruby Tielsch, Regency Nursing Schulenburg

Mel Cameron, Concordia Nursing & Rehab

Bella Vista AR

Daylight-Saving
Time Begins



**REMINDER: Don't forget to set your clocks
FORWARD one hour on Saturday, March 11th
before you go to bed.**

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on 3/12/23.

What's Happening at St. Paul!

QUILTING MONDAY—Quilters (Hand Quilting) meet every Monday at 9:00 am in the Quilting Room in the Educational Building.

TACKY TUESDAY (tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief) will meet on March 21, 2023, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. A pot luck lunch is shared by all with fellowship around 11:45 am, with a main dish provided.

FRIENDS IN FAITH, our women's group, will meet Monday, March 6 at 7 pm at the home of Linda Diers; 654 S. Madison St.; La Grange.

FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group, will meet on Monday, March 6 at 6:30 pm at the Keilers' Darilek House, 254 West Milam St; La Grange. Hosts are Todd Oehlke and Leroy Bennetsen. [They are meeting the first week of March to avoid conflict with spring break.]

HANDBELL CHOIR - meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Beginning on Ash Wednesday they will meet at 5:10 pm before Worship Services.

CHOIR—meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

PRAISE BAND - meets on Wednesdays at 8:00 pm.

LYO, our high school youth group, meets on Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Beginning Ash Wednesday, the group is invited to attend Wednesday services and then will meet after the services in the LYO room upstairs.

There is a list on the bulletin board near the covered entrance for dates available to provide meals to the LYO meetings on Wednesday evenings. Please consider helping with this ministry to St. Paul youth.

CHURCH COUNCIL— will meet on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Room.



The Church Profile has been submitted to the Synod and is available for potential candidates after review. The Committee has developed interview questions and has conducted a mock interview via a ZOOM call. They discussed their mock interview and feel they are ready for the interview with St. Paul's future Pastor. Please continue to pray for Pastor Bill's interim ministry, the call process and our future Pastor and their family.

The Call Committee

Sylvia Jewell, Chair
Ashleigh Parks, Secretary
Gary Anders

Sandra Tekyl
Hannah Bellue
Tim Knesek

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

2023 Second Chance Work Schedule

March 28–April 3 May 9–15

June 20-26 August 1-7 September 12-18 October 24-30 December 12-18

Second Chance hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

& Mondays, 8 a.m.

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

2023 AMEN volunteer schedule

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mondays

March 20

is St. Paul day to work at AMEN

(Also Thursday **March 23** 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.

2023 AMEN Volunteer Schedule

May 22 July 17 August 28 November 6



The **40 Days of Lenten Giving** has had a very good beginning. As of February 22, St. Paul has delivered **163** pounds of food to AMEN.

Thank you for your generosity.

DATE	NAME
3/4	Wilburn Hackebeil, Don Hagemann, Macee Prause
3/5	Duke Hengst, Jessie Neuendorff, Brady Paden
3/7	Sissy Friemel, Melvin Schilling
3/8	John Pineda
3/11	Bethany Stork
1/14	Lillie Jackson, McKynzie Payne
3/15	JoAn Heintschel
3/16	Leon Mueller
3/17	Kristi Jackson, Sylvia Jewell
3/18	Brian Killough
3/19	Howard Bohot
3/20	Anthony Jones
3/21	Justin Elias, Bert Gest
3/23	Cole Morgan
3/24	Linda Albers
3/25	Don Mayer, Chris Neuman
3/28	Lindsey Schneider, Roy Weishuhn
3/30	Robert Hartley, Madison Oltmann, Colton Stahl
3/31	Phyllis Bohot, Connie Prause



NAME	DATE	YEARS
Anna & David Karisch	3/4	34
Rebecca & Russell Dittrich	3/11	6
Sheryl & Gene Jaster	3/19	40
Joyce & Don Steinmann	3/22	48
Kristi & Wayne Jackson	3/24	16
Tammy & Dale Kutac	3/25	23
JoLene & Gerald Hughes	3/27	52

March Worship Assistants

	5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
MAR 4 & 5		
Ushers	Billy & Christie Nietsche	David & Patty Ehler
Lectors	Annette Citzler	To Be Determined
Altar Guild	Sharon Elias	Faye Bresan
Fellowship Refreshments		Linda Morrison
Flowers		Bonnie Sladek
Mar 11 & 12		
Ushers	Don Koether/Jackie Skelton	Caleb & Ashleigh Parks
Lectors	Jackie Skelton	Praise Band
Altar Guild	JoLene & Gerald Hughes	JoLene & Gerald Hughes
Fellowship Refreshments		OPEN
Flowers	OPEN	
Mar 18 & 19		
Ushers	John D & Kay Marburger	Scott & Kathy Toensing
Lectors	John D. Marburger	To Be Determined
Altar Guild	Janet Coronado	Janet Coronado
Fellowship Refreshments		Annette Citzler
Flowers	Family of Leward and Alice	Anders
Mar 25 & 26		
Ushers	Richard & Danette Coufal	Frank & Sandra Teykl
Lectors	Chloe Coufal	Praise Band
Fellowship Refreshments		OPEN
Altar Guild	Gloria Raschke/Ginger Muesse	Gloria Raschke/Ginger Muesse
Flowers	Russ & Debbie Friemel and	Ardie & Jerry Holsinger



We will have an Easter Egg hunt for the children on Easter Sunday, April 9, after the service! Bring your basket!

If you would like to donate candy please have it in the kitchen by Sunday April 2, 2023 so the plastic eggs can be filled beforehand.

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

Pastor Cell Phone: 512-825-0842

Fellowship Hall Phone: 979-968-9603

www.stpaullg.org

stpaul@cvctx.com



St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. William J. Sappenfield, *Interim Pastor*

wsappenfield@att.net

[Pastor is in the office Mon-Wed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.]

(512) 825-0842

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

March 2023 *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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