



# Messenger

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

March 2024

Member Church of the ELCA

## PS – A WORD FROM PASTOR STAN EASTER IS COMING!!

What does that mean for you? For families, it is a time to gather together, hopefully, for worship, a family meal, and often watching the children and grandchildren hunt for Easter eggs. We associate many things with Easter – Easter lilies, butterflies, eggs, candy, etc.

But often, we, like the disciples, are so occupied with our own concerns that we do not see or understand the events of Easter. We want to get to the celebration quickly and not spend time with Jesus or be part of his trials and struggles from Thursday to Sunday. It is a normal reaction to try to avoid and move away quickly from pain.

But as Christians and disciples of Jesus, we are asked each year to go with Jesus through these painful events. When we arrive with Jesus in Jerusalem and are a part of the crowd that welcomes him into the city waving palm branches and strewing our cloaks before the donkey he is riding, it seems as though Jesus cannot be touched and great changes will happen with the authorities in Jerusalem.

We find ourselves with the disciples in the upper room as Jesus changes the focus of the traditional Passover/Seder meal to what we know as the Last Supper, the beginning of the sacrament of Holy Communion. At that meal, Jesus continues to teach his disciples, all of us, in the meaning of his life and ministry. He, in the gospel of John, gives the commandment to love one another as we have first been loved by God and by Jesus.

We go quietly with Jesus to the Garden where he prays and then is arrested, beginning his trials before the Jewish leaders and the Roman authorities. He is condemned at all levels by them and taken to his death on the cross.

There is then the wait without hope, on the part of his first disciples on that first Easter morning when the women go to the tomb to finish a proper burial for Jesus. **He is not there.** The message begins here with the women, as they go tell the other disciples, who don't really believe them.

Quite often, we like Peter and the men, are hesitant to accept that this has really happened. But we are on this side of Easter. We know Jesus is risen. We need to celebrate that, tell others about it and affirm it in our greetings on Easter and every day.

Let us come together around a meal (Holy Communion) as a family. Let us find ways to tell the news to our children and others, so that the message of Easter and Jesus come alive for them as well. Let us welcome the sun and the Son on Easter morning.

This is where the Easter Sunday texts leave us. It is just a small beginning, a glimmer, of the glory that we want to celebrate on Easter. We are asked to greet one another with **“Christ is risen!”** And the response, **“Christ is risen indeed!”**

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March 2024

Although it is not yet Spring, there are many comparisons that can be drawn with this part of our spiritual lives. Just as we think of new life and new beginnings, Lent is a time of repentance, reflection, and solidifying our relationship with God. If we reach deep into our soul, we should feel comforted in knowing that our life here is temporary and what lies ahead is for eternity. We must realize that we can all fall short at times, but it is up to each of us to admit our faults. God's love for us is all that we need.

As we begin our new church year, we are excited to welcome three new members to our church council. Scott Toensing will serve as Vice-President; John Acosta will head the Mission/Peru Outreach committee and Glenn Eilert will be the council representative for the Outreach/Social Ministry committee. We know all three of these individuals will do a great job and bring new ideas to an already strong group of council members. Welcome aboard and thank you for your service.

For over 120 years, St. Paul has been an integral part of this community. Like all churches, we have faced many challenges, but we have always endured. We are so blessed to have members of this congregation who give so much of their time and talents to our church and to our community.....a true reason to be thankful.

Sincerely,

Paul Mikula

Congregational Council President



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



Kay Dippel

Gladys Weber

Myrtle Friemel

Edwin Votaw

Annie and Wilburn Hackebeil

Jenelle Oeltjendiers

Dorothy Stolle

Dogie Keith

Hertha Kruse

JC Spacek

Annazell Von Minden, Care Inn

Juanita Frels, Care Inn

Joy Skelton, Monument Hill

Florence Otto, Monument Hill

Grace Robilio, Jefferson Place

Marianne Williams, Jefferson Place

Betty Schmidt, Jefferson Place

Verlene Hobratschk, The Towers, Smithville

Mary Ann Butler, Westminster, Austin

Gloria Baumbach, Holly Hall Center, Houston

Fay Braun, The Continental, Austin TX

Mel Cameron, Concordia, Bella Vista AR



Time changes on March 10, 2024, back to Daylight Saving Time. Remember to change you clock before you go to bed Saturday night FORWARD one hour.



**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and join us at St. Paul Fellowship Hall on Palm Sunday, March 24, after 9 AM service as we bid farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Sid and Susan Roden, who are moving in early April to South Carolina. There will be cake and coffee and orange juice for all! Do come and help us thank them for these years they have shared here with us and extend our best wishes for the future, as they join daughter Naida and son Tim and family in the Palmetto State.

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

**MONDAY MORNING QUILTERS** meet on Monday mornings at 9:00 am in the Quilting Room in the Education Building. This group works on hand quilting quilts.

**TACKY TUESDAY** will meet Tuesday, March 19, 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 on Monday, March 4 at 6:30 pm at the home of Ann Raborn, 198 Charles St., La Grange. Kathy Toensing will be leading the group discussion.

**FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group,** will meet on Monday, March, 11 at the home of Leroy and Carolyn Bennetsen, 7733 Citzler Rd; La Grange. Todd Oehlke and Leroy and Carolyn are hosts for the meeting.

**BELL CHOIR** - will meet at 5:10 pm on Wednesdays in the sanctuary.

**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, March 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

**LYO**—will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 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 learn how many youth to prepare for.



# MARCH

## Birthdays

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	Claire Hensel, 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	35
Rebecca & Russell Dittrich	3/11	7
Sheryl & Gene Jaster	3/19	41
Joyce & Don Steinmann	3/22	49
Kristi & Wayne Jackson	3/24	17
Tammy & Dale Kutac	3/25	24
JoLene & Gerald Hughes	3/27	53

# MARCH



# March Worship Assistants

<b>Sunday March 3, 2024</b>	
Ushers	Paul Mikula & Linda Morrison
	George Eilert, Gary Anders
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Gloria Raschke
Fellowship Refreshments	Linda Morrison
Flowers	Bonnie Sladek
<b>Wednesday, March 6, 2024</b>	
Ushers am	John D and Kay Marburger
Altar Guild	Gloria Raschke
<b>Sunday, March 10, 2024</b>	
Ushers	Scott & Kathy Toensing
	Lloyd & Sylvia Jewell
Lectors	Hannah Bellue
Altar Guild	Jackie Skelton
Fellowship Refreshments	Annette Citzler
Flowers	Open
<b>Wednesday, March 13, 2024</b>	
Ushers am	John D. and Kay Marburger
Altar Guild	Jackie Skelton
<b>Sunday March 17, 2024</b>	
Ushers	Kenny & Patti Weber
	Rhonda Koether & Bonnie Sladek
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Janet Coronado
Fellowship Refreshments	Linda Diers
Flowers	The Leward Anders Family
<b>Wednesday, March 20, 2024</b>	
Ushers am	John D. and Kay Marburger
Altar Guild	Janet Coronado
<b>Sunday March 24, Palm Sunday</b>	
Ushers	Frank & Sandra Teykl
	David & Patty Ehler
Lectors	Bonnie Sladek
Altar Guild	Ashleigh Parks
Fellowship Refreshments	Wendy McCredie
Flowers	Palms

# March Worship Assistants Continued

<b>Thursday, March 28</b>	
Ushers am	John D. and Kay Marburger
Altar Guild	Lisa Moellenberndt
<b>Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday</b>	
<b>Ushers 9:00 am</b>	Don Koether & Jackie Skelton
	James and Sharon Elias
<b>Ushers 11:00 am</b>	To Be Determined
<b>Lectors 9:00 am</b>	Wendy McCredie
<b>Lectors 11:00 am</b>	Dianne Lude
Altar Guild	Gloria Raschke
Flowers	Easter Lilies



## 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 Tuesday, March 26, 2024 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

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

**March 12—March 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**

**April 1, 2024**

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

**(Also Thursday April 4, 2024 to accept food donations ONLY)**

**10:00 am—12:00 pm**

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

**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.



# MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 Worship	4 9:00 Quilters	5	6 8:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Lenten Service 5:10 pm Handbells	7	8	9 <i>CHANGE YOUR CLOCK</i>
10:30 Adult Education	6:30 pm Friends in Faith		6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm LYO 8:00 pm Praise Band			
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11 9:00 Quilters	12 St. Paul @ Second Chance this week	13 8:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Lenten Service 5:10 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm LYO 8:00 pm Praise Band	14	15	16
11 9:00 Worship	6:30 pm Fishers of Men					
10:30 Adult Education		18 9:00 Quilters	19	20 8:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Lenten Service 5:10 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm LYO 8:00 pm Praise Band	21	22
17 9:00 Worship	8:30 Tacky Tuesday	6:00 Church Council				
10:30 Adult Education						23
24 9:00 Worship	25 9:00 Quilters	26	27 8:30 am Bible Study 5:10 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm LYO 8:00 pm Praise Band	28 Maundy Thursday 10:00 am Lenten Service 11:00 am Circle of Love 6:00 pm Lenten Service	29	30
10:30 Adult Education						
31 9:00 Worship	Easter Egg Hunt between services	11:00 Worship				

## 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](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***

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

## MESSENGER MARCH 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**

---

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

---

**Dated Material**

**Please do not delay**

---

**Non-Profit Organization**

**U.S. Postage Paid**

**La Grange, Texas**

**Permit No. 83**

---