



Messenger

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

May 2024

Member Church of the ELCA

PS – A WORD FROM PASTOR STAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! The day of Pentecost is considered the birthdate of the Christian church. It is the day when the disciples were moved by the Holy Spirit to be witnessing to the gospel of Jesus the Christ to the people in Jerusalem. It was a crowded city, because the day of Pentecost was already a celebration of two events in the life of Israel.

First, it was the Festival of Weeks. It was a week of weeks since Passover and marked the beginning of the wheat harvest. A time to celebrate that there would be a harvest – no natural disasters along the way in the growing season. Living and serving in Kansas, I have witnessed a year with a bumper crop of wheat so that there were not enough grain bins or rail cars. In one grain elevator, they put 400,000 bushels on the ground until they got enough rail cars. I also saw one year when a whole county lost their wheat crop to hail and the grain elevator went bankrupt.

Second, the people of Israel had added to this day a celebration of the giving of the law on Mount Sinai to Moses and the Hebrew people, thereby establishing a covenant between God and them. With this, this day had become one of three times during the year when many Jews made the trip to worship together in Jerusalem at the Temple.

In the book of Acts, the disciples are still in Jerusalem for this festival and celebration. When the Holy Spirit manifests in them, they find themselves out in the streets talking to people from all over the world and speaking in their languages so that they understood the message about Jesus.

That is still our challenge today. How do we find the courage or the Spirit to move out of our comfortable rooms and share the good news of Jesus? What languages do we need to speak in order to be heard and understood by the people around us?

I saw a cartoon on Facebook where a teacher in elementary school had fashioned a large model of the face of a phone or tablet, so that it appeared to the children like they were seeing the teacher on their screen. That is exactly where many young people spend much of their time.

Covid forced most churches to begin broadcasting their worship on line in one place or another. People could watch live or tune in at a more convenient time for them. Again, on Facebook, there was a cartoon where a person was saying, “Overnight my pastor became a televangelist.”

The challenge is the same – share the gospel with a new generation. The Spirit moves us find to ways to share that good news in the languages of the people around us. When you listen to your children and grandchildren speak, when you hear people on the street in larger cities, you will hear a different language. Are we willing to learn a new way, a new language to reach those around us? We want them to celebrate with us the birth of the church and another year under God’s care and the motivation of the Holy Spirit.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MAY 2024

As the days grow longer during the month of May, we should enjoy the hours of light that we are provided with each day. Spring will change into summer with the days getting even longer. Let the Lord shine his light on you and brighten each one of your days. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens.

This time of year carries so much meaning for many of us. We may experience a confirmation, a graduation, a memorable vacation, or something that is very significant in our lives. So whatever special event is happening in your life, remember to enjoy it with your family and friends.

The month of May also has one very important date to remember and that of course is Mother's Day. This is the person who cared for you and nurtured you like no one else could. She comforted you, she disciplined you, and most likely molded you into the kind of person that you are today. So if you can, spend some time with your mother and remember how she helped to start you on your journey through life. Time will be the most memorable gift that you can give to her.

Just as God looks after us, He provided us with an Angel here on earth. Her arms were always open when you needed a hug, her eyes were stern when you needed a lesson, and she was there when you needed a friend. She not only gave you the gift of life, but she also gave you the gift of love.

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

Joy Skelton

Florence Otto, Monument Hill

Juanita Frels, Care Inn

Verlene Hobratsck, The Towers, Smithville

AC and Annazell Von Minden, Jefferson Place

Grace Robilio, Jefferson Place

Marianne Williams, Jefferson Place

Betty Schmidt, Jefferson Place

Mary Ann Butler, Westminster, Austin

Fay Braun, The Continental, Austin

Gloria Baumbach, Holly Hall Center, Houston

Mel Cameron, Concordia, Bella Vista AR

ALTAR GUILD MEETING on MAY 14 at 2 p.m. in the FRIENDSHIP ROOM

The Altar Guild has a significant role in our church services. They are responsible for the preparation of Holy Communion at each service and any special services. The Guild also notes when supplies are required (oil for candles, replacements for Paschal candle and Sanctuary lamp, wine, grape juice, wafers, cups, individual communion kits, candles, and holders for Christmas Candlelight Services).

The next Altar Guild meeting is set for Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 2 p.m. in the Friendship Room. Consider joining the Altar Guild as a way to serve your Lord in a rewarding way at St. Paul. They would welcome more men from the congregation to join us. They hope to see you at the meeting. If you have any questions contact Faye Bresan (979-968-2038) or the church office.



What's Happening at St. Paul!

TACKY TUESDAY will NOT be meeting in May, they will meet again on Tuesday, June 11 which is a week early to avoid conflict with the Day Camp program.

FRIENDS IN FAITH, our women's group, will meet on Monday, May 6 at 6:30 pm at the home of Cindy Hengst; Bear Creek Rd; La Grange. Cindy will be the lesson leader. They are studying the book "Woven— Understanding the Bible as One Seamless Story" by Angie Smith. All are welcome.

FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group, will meet on Monday, May 13, at 6:30pm at Fritz and Freida's. For directions to Fritz and Freida's, please call or text Faith Frerichs at 979-966-2680. Hosts are Ralph Frerichs, Weldon Hartmann, and ALL Fishers of Men. This month wives and significant others are invited to attend.

HANDBELL CHOIR and CHOIR—will not meet in May, June, July and August. They will resume practice in September. A new schedule will be announced at that time.

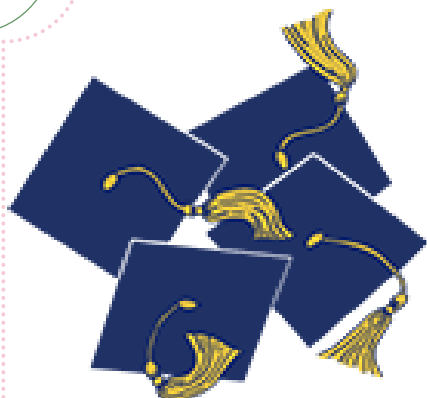
PRAISE BAND - will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays in the sanctuary.

CHURCH COUNCIL— will meet Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

ALTAR GUILD—will meet Tuesday, May 14 at 2:00 pm in the Friendship Room. Please consider joining this ministry group.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE—will meet Tuesday, May 14 at 5:30 pm in the Friendship Room. If you are interested in this ministry please plan to attend.

LYO—will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Youth enjoy a meal and fellowship before devotional time and reflection. The youth and sponsors enjoy members of the congregation visiting and developing a relationship with the group.

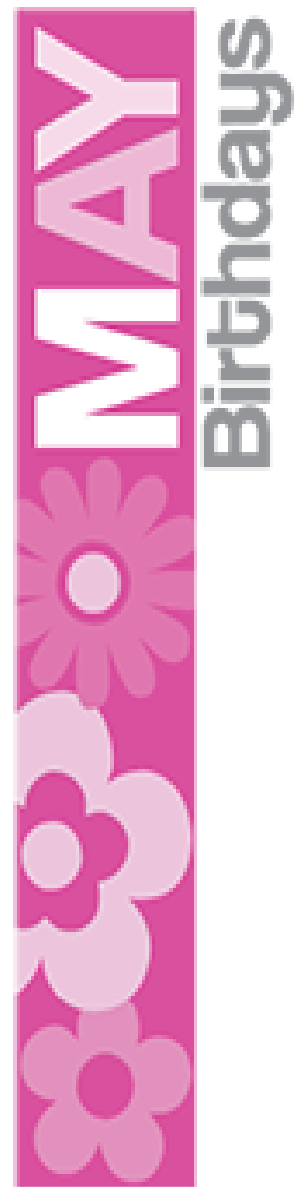


**Celebrating
our Graduates**

High School Seniors will be recognized and presented with a quilt made by the ladies of the church on Sunday, May 26, 2024. This year the graduating seniors are: Brock Loehr, Ella Pineda, Brigham Kelley, and Judith Almeida.

Those members graduating from college/university will also be recognized. If you have a graduate you would like recognized, please notify the church office by Wednesday, 5/22 with their name and

DATE	NAME
5/1	Charlie Neuendorff
5/2	Clayton Childs, Amy Streit
5/3	Ashley Elias, Alyssa Jones
5/4	Reagan Arlund, J.C. Spacek, Collin Weyand
5/6	Russell Fisbeck
5/7	Brittany Canada, Herbert Friemel, Richard Halpain Rory Halpain, Ryder Halpain, Caleb Jochen
5/9	Bonnie Schielack, Kay Schielack
5/10	Brigham Kelley
5/11	Elva Keilers
5/12	Gabriel Friemel
5/13	Delores Bayer, Carrie Harbers
5/15	Garrison Bage, Donna LeBlue
5/16	Faye Bresan, Tyler Wolff
5/18	Valerie Hinze, Brock Loehr
5/19	Chris Radcliff, Diana Stevens
5/20	Gladys Weber
5/22	Hudson Mercer, Annazell von Minden
5/24	Beth Brown, Rachel Hernandez
5/25	Jarron Fajkus, Sandra Weyand
5/26	Kyler Lamza
5/27	Brooks Buss, Grayson Buss
5/28	Ann Steinhauser
5/29	Kathy Carter
5/30	Jason Parks



Report of Memorial Expenditures January thru March 2024

Gifts in form of memorial donations were given to St. Paul in memory of deceased members. Lenten and Easter banners and a new kitchen mixer for use during the Circle of Love celebration were purchased with donations in memory of Charles Rau.

New skillets, cooking pots, serving utensils, and tablecloths for use during the Circle of Love celebration were provided by donations in memory of Carolyn and Eugene Hunger.

Additional kitchen utensils were purchased with donations made in memory of Barbara Kincannon, Billy Silva, Janet Namken, David Raabe, Jimmy Weikel, and Bea Rost.



NAME	DATE	YEARS
Karen & Don Mayer	5/2	43
Christopher & Kindell Church	5/3	10
Michelle & Scott Martin	5/6	24
Elaine & Richard Halpain	5/9	54
Katrina & Donald Wilson	5/9	21
Denise & Bruce Speckels	5/10	44
Diana & Troy Stevens	5/12	23
An'na & Matthew Jaster	5/19	6
Deanna & Neal Miller	5/19	45
Irma & George Eilert	5/23	37
Mindy & Mark Davis	5/24	27
Holly & Doug Fritsch	5/29	31

St. Paul Financial Report as of MARCH 31, 2024

INCOME	MAR	AMOUNT	EXPENSE	Amount
Offering Envelopes			Salaries/Payroll Expense	13,637.36
	3/3	5,904.83	Utilities	1,523.99
includes Rent	3/10	3,835.00	Pest Control	225.00
	3/17	4,925.50	Landscape/Yard care	750.00
	3/24	3,064.00	Office Supplies/Equipment	555.75
			Worship/Altar	691.78
			LYO Summer Trip VRBO	7,045.20
			Software	61.40
			Outreach/Social Ministrty	336.20
My Eoffering		8,369.10	Accountant Expense	80.00
Thrivent Choice		127.00	Postage	20.19
MIF Interest Deposit		548.42	Property Maintenance	171.54
Gau Interest Deposit		7,361.60	Telephone/Internet	384.76
Interest		11.75	Miscellaneous Expense	121.49
TOTAL		\$34,147.20	TOTAL	25,604.66

\$100,000. from the General Fund was transferred to a CD at Prosperity Bank with a 5% interest rate

May Worship Assistants

Sunday, May 5, 2024	
Ushers	Paul Mikula and Linda Morrison
	Frank and Sandra Teykl
Lectors	Atlan Citzler, Jr.
Altar Guild	JoLene & Gerald Hughes
Fellowship Refreshments	Linda Morrison
Flowers	Bennetsen Family
Sunday, May 12, 2024	
Ushers	Scott Toensing, Chuck & Karen Bellue
	James & Sharon Elias
Lectors	Sharon Elias
Altar Guild	Jackie Skelton
Fellowship Refreshments	Ginger Friemel
Flowers	Gabriel Friemel
Sunday, May 19, 2024	
Ushers	John Acosta & Lynnette Boyd,
	Billy & Kristie Nitsche, John D. Marburger
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Ginger Friemel
Fellowship Refreshments	Open
Flowers	Open
Sunday, May 26, 2024	Senior Recognition Day
Ushers	Donnie Dippel, Tim Knesek,
	Lloyd & Sylvia Jewell, Rhonda Koether
Lectors	Lloyd Jewell
Altar Guild	To Be Determined
Fellowship Refreshments	Open
Flowers	Holub Family

Be on the lookout! It is almost time for Day Camp sign up. This year the theme will be: *Real. Wonder.* The dates are June 17th - 21st, from 8:00-12:00. Check out the Facebook page and the church web page May 1st for the registration form. Lutherhill staff will be at the June 16th worship to introduce themselves.

SAVE the DATE for a meeting June 16th at 10:00 in the nursery. We would love to know your ideas for children's ministry at St. Paul. More information to come.

Love in Christ,

Dianne Lude

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

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

May 20

is St. Paul day to work at AMEN

(Also Thursday **May 23, 2024 to accept food donations ONLY)**

10:00 am—12:00 pm

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

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.

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm LYO	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Education	6 6:30 pm Friends in Faith	7	8 8:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm LYO	9	10	11
12 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Education	13 6:30 pm Fishers of Men	14 2:00 pm Altar Guild In Friendship Room 5:30 pm Worship Committee in Friendship Room	15 8:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm LYO	16	17 Synod Assembly In The Woodlands	18 Synod Assembly In The Woodlands
19 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Education	20 St. Paul @ AMEN	21 6:00 pm Church Council	22 8:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm LYO	23 St. Paul @ AMEN	24	25
26 9:00 Worship Recognize Graduates 10:30 Adult Education	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 Fayette County Elections in Fellowship Hall	29 8:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm LYO	30	31	

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: larson.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 MAY 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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