



# Messenger

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

October 2024

Member Church of the ELCA

## PS – A WORD FROM PASTOR STAN

REFORMATION SUNDAY, October 27<sup>th</sup> – Reformation Day/Sunday is a time to remember the beginnings of our Lutheran heritage. It is a time to **wear red** and celebrate all things Lutheran, Martin Luther, and German.

Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation by wanting to reform the church of his day, which was only the Roman Catholic church. He began by proposing a discussion around his 95 Theses, which he posted for the faculty of his seminary to read.

With the recent invention of the printing press, this and subsequent writings of Luther and his fellow reformers spread through the surrounding area. The two major writers of Lutheran documents that became part of our Lutheran Confessions were Martin Luther (pastor and seminary professor) and Philip Melanchthon (lay person and professor). They taught at the same seminary and consulted on the continuing disputes with the Roman Catholic church of that day.

Each year on the day that Luther posted his 95 Theses, we celebrate the beginning of the Lutheran Church. We honor the work, witness, and writings of Luther, Melanchthon, and others. We remember studying Luther's Small Catechism in our confirmation instruction. Many of you probably memorized the Small Catechism and may have been examined before the congregation as you came to be confirmed.

We also recognize all the work that Luther and others did to organize a new church in a practical way without the structure and leadership of the Roman Catholic church. In forming a new church, Luther worked to energize this new church with new music, less formality in worship, and a focus on the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

But it was not all work for Luther and the Reformers. This is also the time in Germany where they celebrate Oktoberfest with all the appropriate beverages and foods. We will celebrate our heritage with them on October 27<sup>th</sup> with a Polka Service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a good German meal.

Lutherans know how to have a good time together.



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*October 2024*

One of the best known prophets in the Bible, Isaiah, has a very powerful and meaningful message as we enter the fall season. In chapter 40, verse 8, it states that “the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. This symbolizes that while many things in life will wither and fade away, the Word of God will never diminish.

St. Paul Lutheran will once again host the La Grange Leopard varsity football team for a pre-game meal, each week the team has a home game. Various churches will be taking turns preparing the meal for the team, but our fellowship hall will be gathering location for the meal (with one exception, Sacred Heart Catholic Church hosted the first home game meal at the KC Hall). This outreach program was done last year and was received exceptionally well by the players and coaches.

Our church council recently voted to upgrade the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machine located in the Narthex. They also voted to purchase an additional device that will be placed in the Fellowship Hall. The new unit has the ability to be used on children as well as adults. This gives us another safety feature for our church family and visitors to our facility.

A special “thank you” to Scott Toensing for replacing the worn and weathered handicap signs on the south side of the building. Several of the poles were painted as well. All four parking spaces closest to the Fellowship Hall entrance are now designated as handicapped parking. Two additional handicapped spaces are located in the main parking lot. Handicapped parking spaces are also located in the church's parking lot on the north side of the building.

Sincerely,

Paul Mikula, Congregational Council President

## ***"Movies Worth Watching: Cinema and Spiritual Growth."—Reserve the Date!***

St. Paul's video license enables us to consider how to use cinema to expand our ministries both within the congregation and in the broader community. We are still working out some technical and logistical concerns, but we invite all members of the congregation (and their guests) for the inaugural viewing and discussion of *JoJo Rabbit* at 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 5. This film was nominated for 192 awards and won 52 of them, including an Academy Award and a BAFTA award for Best Adapted Screenplay by Taika Waititi. As the congregation explores this new resource, we anticipate expanding invitations to monthly screenings open to the public. Each session will provide opportunities to connect popular culture with our ethical and spiritual vocations as people of faith. Please join us and provide your suggestions on how to grow this outreach ministry. If you are so inclined, bring your favorite movie snacks to share. For more information, contact Leonard Schulze, Scott Toensing, or Pastor Stan.



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



Kay Dippel

Florence Otto, Monument Hill

Gladys Weber

Juanita Frels, Care Inn

JC Spacek

AC and Annazell Von Minden, Jefferson Place

Annie and Wilburn Hackebeil

Grace Robilio, Jefferson Place

Jenelle Oeltjendiers

Marianne Williams, Jefferson Place

Dorothy Stolle

Betty Schmidt, Schulenburg Regency

Dogie Keith

Mary Ann Butler, Westminster, Austin

Joy Skelton

Gloria Baumbach, Holly Hall Center, Houston

Hertha Kruse

Mel Cameron, Concordia, Bella Vista AR

Myrtle Friemel

Melvin Schilling

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*This message was recently received in the Church Office along with a donation which has been credited to the Music/AV fund.*

The family of Perry Price and Janice Herzog Price would like to contribute to St. Paul Lutheran Church's Music Ministry.

Mom was born in La Grange, Texas in 1939 and was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's. Mom and her family moved to Houston when she was a teenager. After high school, she worked in accounting and met my Dad riding Houston's metro bus to work! They rode the same route and Dad started saving her a seat! They both loved listening to hymns sung by a choir.

Mom passed away on December 25, 2023, not long after Dad passed. In their final wishes, Janice and Perry requested that we give back to our communities and places of worship. In keeping with their wishes, please accept this small gift in their memory. We give thanks and praise to God for our wonderful parents.

Thank you,

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

**TACKY TUESDAY** will meet **TWICE** in the month of October! First on Tuesday, October 8, from 8:30-12: there will NOT be a meal on this day. Then we will meet again on Tuesday, October 15. We will have a pot luck meal at 11:30 am on this day. Please join us as we pin hems, cut batting, and tie knots in quilts for Lutheran World Relief Quilts. No experience needed. We are trying to get quilts finished to ship this month so we need as many hands as possible!

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**—meets on Wednesday Mornings at 8:30 am in the Friendship Room.

**FRIENDS IN FAITH, our women's group**, will meet on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the home of Laurie Janda; 2707 Rocky Creek Rd; La Grange. Patti Ehler will be leading the study of Chapter 5 of Angie Smith's book, **Woven—Understanding the Bible as One Seamless Story**. Everyone is welcome and invite your friends.

**FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group**, will meet on Monday, October 21, at 6:30 pm at the home of Scott and Kathy Toensing, 115 Rolling Hill Drive; La Grange. Scott, Jim Boyd, and Frank Moellenberndt are the hosts.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES**—meet on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

**HANDBELLS**—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 Tuesday, October 15, 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. 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.

**LGISD FOOTBALL**—St. Paul is hosting the LGISD Varsity Football team on Friday afternoons of Home Games. The team will be bussed from the Pep Rally and come to the Fellowship Hall for a meal and fellowship. Other churches are assisting with meals for this community-wide effort. St. Paul will be providing the meal on Friday, November 8.

## More What's Happening at St. Paul

**Family Sunday Brunch** will begin on Sunday, October 6. A light breakfast will be offered after services for everyone in the fellowship hall. After the brunch, families with their children will meet in the parlor to have family learning activity and crafts with a Christian education theme. These events will continue on the first Sunday of each month.

**Second Saturday Cinema** will be on Saturday, October 13, from 5-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A meal will be provided and then a family- friendly movie will be shown for children Pre-K thru 6th grade. And there will be popcorn! The LYO will be assisting with the program. Parents are welcome to join their children or have a Parents Night Out. Registration forms are on the St. Paul Website: [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org) or on the Facebook page to register your child. Assistance with meal preparation will be needed: watch for opportunities to sign up.

<b>St. Paul Income/Expense Report For August 2024</b>			
INCOME	August	AMOUNT	
Offering Envelopes			Benevolence
	8/4	6,287.00	Salaries/Payroll Expense
	8/11	2,779.00	Circle of Love books/poster
	8/18	4,315.00	Confirmation
	8/25	3,621.00	Insurance Background checks
			Janitorial supply
			Kitchen Supplies
			Landscape/Yard care
			Lutherhill Donation
MyEoffering		8,007.22	LYO to Reimburse
			Summer Trip Expenses
			Office Supplies/Equipment
			Outreach/Social Ministry
			Parish Education
			Pest Control
			Postage
			Property Maintenance
			Radio/Outreach
			Software
Interest Deposit		16,898.28	Supply Pastor
(Meservy Quarterly)			Telephone/Internet
Oltmann Interest		376.06	Utilities
Interest (Checking)		7.71	Worship
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$42,291.27</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
			<b>39,450.89</b>

# OCTOBER



## Birthdays

DATE	NAME
1	Frank Moellenberndt, Shayleigh Staal
2	Richard Howard
3	Avery Blaschke
4	Jenson Kurtz, Lisa Oltmann
5	Carol Hernandez
6	John Acosta, David Karisch
9	Kathy Brewer, Jo Ann Friemel
11	Dale Kutac, Craig Oltmann, Richard Stolle, Pastor Stan Larson
12	Neal Frerichs, Colton Miori
13	Jacob Wolff
15	Richard Coufal, Hadley Ehler, Barbara Greenwood, Michael Mach
16	Beth Buss, Kenna Lamza
17	Lauren Schmidt
18	JoLene Hughes
19	Ralph Frerichs, Annie Oppermann
20	Kim Neuendorff, Tammy Oehlke
21	Madi Adams
22	Mark Carter
23	Willa Childs, Frank Macaulay, Gary Nitsche
24	Penelope Pundt
26	Avery Koehl, Joel Newby
27	Tamara Blaha, Billy Nietzsche
28	Jarrod Gross, Regina Keilers
29	Debra Byler, Lena Gross, Janet Schmidt
31	Bonnie Busch

NAME	DATE	YEARS
Debbie & Harvey Busch	10/1	42
Peggy & David Johnson	10/2	42
Barbara & Gary Anders	10/6	34
Cynthia & Duke Hengst	10/6	40
Carrie & Jonathan Harbers	10/9	19
Lena & Jerrod Gross	10/15	19
Tracy & Michael Mach	10/15	36
Candace & Edward Halpain	10/20	6
Marsha & Larry Pietsch	10/21	29
Charity & Tyler Dockery	10/22	8
Annie & Wilburn Hackebeil	10/29	47

# OCTOBER



## ANNIVERSARIES

# October Worship Assitants

<b>10/6</b>	
<b>Ushers</b>	Paul Mikula, Linda Morrison
	Duke Hengst, Glenn Davis
<b>Lectors</b>	Frank Teykl
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Faye Bresan
<b>Flowers</b>	Open
<b>Fellowship Refreshments</b>	Family Sunday Brunch
<b>10/13</b>	
<b>Ushers</b>	Dianne Lude, Faye Bresan,
	Ginger Muesse, Janet Coronado, Wendy McCredie
<b>Lectors</b>	Praise Band
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ginger Muesse
<b>Flowers</b>	Open
<b>Fellowship Refreshments</b>	Linda Diers
<b>10/20</b>	
<b>Ushers</b>	John Acosta, Lynnette Boyd,
	John D. Marburger, Billy & Christie Nitsche
<b>Lectors</b>	John D. Marburger
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ginger Friemel
<b>Flowers</b>	In Memory of Charles Rau
	by the Rau Family
<b>Fellowship Refreshments</b>	Linda Morrison
<b>10/27</b>	<b>10:00 am Polka Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Atlan Citzler, Don Koether,
	David & Patti Ehler, Bradley Loehr
<b>Lectors</b>	Praise Band
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ashleigh Parks
<b>Flowers</b>	Annette Citzler



We will be celebrating with a special Polka Service on Sunday, October 27 at 10:00 am. The service is in celebration of Reformation Sunday. The music will be provided by the St. Paul Praise Band and features liturgical lyrics to familiar polka tunes. A traditional German meal will follow the service. "Beer and Brats" is the theme, and you are welcome to bring a beverage of your choice. The Church Council has approved the consumption of "Special German Beverages" for this meal if you desire to bring your own. Members are asked to provide a dessert to share.



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

**October 8-14**

**November 19-25, 2024 (Last week in 2024!)**

**\*\*\*\*\*2025 Schedule: January 14-20, February 25-March 3, April 8-14, May 27-June 2,  
July 15-21, August 26-30, October 7-13, November 18-24**

*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**

**October 21**

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

**(Also Thursday, October 24, 2024 to accept food donations ONLY  
10:00 am—12:00 pm)**

**Last Date for St. Paul at AMEN in 2024:  
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.





Lutheran World Relief is an international organization that responds to crises world-wide for people needing assistance in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Since World War II, Lutherans in the US and many other nations have partnered to address the needs of the poorest of the poor in our hardest-hit areas. Whether it's blankets for refugees fleeing famine or war, water wells to secure safe drinking water, or seeds for planting crops after floods have devastated the entire area, as well as many other ministries, LWR is there providing hope and enabling life for many of our brothers and sisters in need.

Here at St. Paul Congregation, a group of "Tacky Quilters" gathers regularly to cut, assemble, sew, and "tack"\* quilts that are shipped every November to the farthest reaches of our globe, but shipping is not free! We need to pay for the shipping costs of the quilts we are donating.

PLEASE consider making a financial gift/donation toward this effort. You may use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter and place your cash or check, made payable to St. Paul, inside. Then you can place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning, drop into the secure box in the door at the Church Office, or (only if a check) mail it to the address on the envelope.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD AND FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS to help us keep this ministry flourishing!

\*To "tack" a quilt is to place single stitches through all the layers of the quilt, the stitches being about six inches apart, over the entire surface of the quilt, in order to keep the "batting" (the warm lining) secured in place and to hold the quilt's layers together so that it holds its shape, even through rigorous use. We use long needles and stiff thread, which is tied with a square knot to close each individual stitch. [COME HELP US—ALL ARE WELCOME! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!]

--St. Paul "Tacky Quilters"

All my La Grange friends! My non profit, Acts of Wisdom is having our FIRST fundraiser evening in LG!!! The details are below. Come on out and have a great time, win some prizes, and give some hope to our students!

## **A Night of Hope: Fundraiser for Acts of Wisdom**

Join us for an inspiring evening at "A Night of Hope," a fundraiser hosted by Acts of Wisdom. Acts of Wisdom was founded 10 years ago by La Grange High School alum Brad Otto. While in Africa, Brad noticed the education crisis in Ethiopia and started Acts of Wisdom. Since then, Acts of Wisdom is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children in Ethiopia and Liberia. Acts of Wisdom is helping over 6,000 students in these two countries. They have delivered over 65,000 schoolbooks, brought dropout rates down from 35% to .9%, expanded classrooms, improved infrastructure, and has helped young women stay in school.

A Night of Hope will help continue this work in Liberia by raising funds to build a brand-new Junior High School, enabling over 200 students to have access to school.

Event Details:

- **Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024**
- **Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
- **Venue: Frisch Auf Country Club**

The evening will feature a silent auction with an array of exclusive items up for bid. Your participation and generous contributions will directly support our mission to provide quality education and brighter futures for the children of Liberia.

Come be a part of this transformative evening and help us bring hope and opportunity to those in need. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

For more information and to get your tickets (tickets are \$50.00 individual or \$90.00 couple) please visit our website [www.actsofwisdom.com](http://www.actsofwisdom.com) (<http://www.actsofwisdom.com>) or visit The Busy B to purchase in person!

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Pastor Brad Otto is currently serving at an ELCA Lutheran Church—  
Messiah Lutheran Church in Cypress TX*

# October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band	<b>3</b> 5-8 pm "NIGHT OF HOPE" Frisch Auf Country Club	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm Movies Worth Watching
<b>6</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Family Branch And Education 10:30 Adult Education	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Friends in Faith	<b>8</b> <b>EXTRA Tacky Tuesday</b> <b>8:30-Noon</b> St. Paul at Second Chance Thru 10/12	<b>9</b> 8:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>LGISD Football</b> <b>Meal @ 3:30 pm</b>	<b>12</b> Second Saturday Cinema 5:00—7:00 pm
<b>13</b> 9:00 Worship Praise Band Service 10:30 Adult Education	<b>14</b> St. Paul at Second Chance	<b>15</b> 8:30 am Tacky Tuesday 6:00 pm Church Council	<b>16</b> 8:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band	<b>17</b> 1:30 pm Audit Committee	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Education	<b>21</b> 8:00 am St. Paul @ AMEN 6:30 pm Fishers of Men	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band	<b>24</b> 10:00 am St. Paul @ AMEN	<b>25</b> <b>LGISD Football</b> <b>Meal @ 3:30 pm</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>REFORMATION SUNDAY</b> <b>POLKA SERVICE</b> <b>10:00 Worship</b> <b>Followed by Meal</b> <b>In Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm LYO 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Praise Band	<b>31</b>		

## 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: [laron.stanleya@gmail.com](mailto:laron.stanleya@gmail.com)**

**Ruth Poncik, *Office Manager***

**Sherise Davis, *Organist***

**Jean McHenry, *Organist***

**Cindy Pundt, *Organist***

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

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

## MESSENGER OCTOBER 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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