



Messenger

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

September 2024

Member Church of the ELCA

PS – A WORD FROM PASTOR STAN

TRIP TO PERU 2024

Kris and I returned safely from the Mission Trip to Peru on Sunday morning, August 11th. We had a wonderful time with our companions on the trip and with meeting the people in Peru. It was everything we had expected and more.

This was a joint mission trip with the LaCrosse Wisconsin Area Synod. Our groups meshed well. They brought several professional translators which made our trip go very smoothly. They also brought a nurse and a professional photographer. We are looking forward to his pictures and sharing those pictures and our experience in Peru with all of you in the near future, either on a Sunday morning or an evening at the church. Once we are prepared, we will schedule a time to talk about Peru.

We got to spend significant time with the leadership of the Lutheran church in Peru. They are a dedicated group of leaders and pastors. We helped them do a children's festival for about 100 children on our first Saturday there. There were activities for the children including origami, friendship bracelets, physical games, and mural painting. We shared lunch and concluded the time with worship.

On Sunday, we worshipped in the churches in the Lima area. We had hoped to worship with Emanuel (the church you have had a relationship for the last few years) but were unable to do that. We were told they only worshipped on-line or in the evening and we never met their pastor.

In light of that, we talked with Bishop Mike about taking on a new relationship with another church where their relationship in our synod is no longer functioning. We are working out the details to have a relationship, congregation to congregation, with the Bethlehem (Belen in Spanish) Lutheran Church where the children's festival was held.

Kris and I worshipped with them on Sunday morning, along with two of our LaCrosse colleagues. It was wonderful Lutheran worship with praise band. We had lunch with the congregation and spent time afterwards visiting with the leadership about their situation, needs, and concerns. We have contact information for their Pastor Irene and a prominent lay leader, Wendy, who is also treasurer for the national church. At our farewell dinner from Lima, we mentioned this new relationship possibility to them and they were open and excited about this.

After several days in Lima, we flew to Cusco to visit the church there and also take a day to see Machu Picchu. Another powerful story of their faith and witness is evident in that city. The Lutherans in Peru are not large in number but they are getting to be known by the people and government as a group who will speak out about the needs and concerns of the people, and they put their faith into deeds and actions.

I have presented this new relationship with Belen/Bethlehem congregation to the council. We will be taking the appropriate steps will follow to make this official. We will lift them up in our prayers, see how we can support them in their ministry, and see what next steps we can do together. Some of the churches in our synod have put together mission trips from their congregations to visit their companion congregations in Peru. St. Paul in Columbus had a trip this summer. They were returning to the U.S. and we went off Peru. We will see what it took for them to do that trip.

Again, Kris and I look forward to sharing more about Peru and our trip there in the near future. Thanks for letting me go and paying for my trip.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

September 2024

Friends in Christ

As we approach the beginning of Fall, this time of year represents new beginnings and challenges for so many of us. We pray that God will be present in our lives and act as a guiding force and help us through whatever changes we may encounter.

We are thankful that Pastor Stan and his wife had a safe and rewarding trip to Peru. I am sure that he will enlighten us with some of their recent experiences and have some very inspiring messages in the upcoming weeks. We pray that their mission trip strengthened the bond that we have with our sister church in Peru and we hope that this ministry and relationship continues for years to come.

On another note, I would personally like to thank all those who assisted with repairing the landscape timbers around the playground area. This area had been in some disrepair, and a safety issue, for quite some time. This part of our church grounds has become much more inviting with the addition of the new bench and picnic tables. We have also added a new solar light panel which is very non-invasive to our neighbors around the church. However, if there is any movement under the light, the brightness will intensify. Thanks again to all who were a part of this project.

After recently completing some upgrades and addressing some safety issues with the north parking lot, the council elected to make similar improvements to the south parking as well. The south parking lot enhancements will be completed by the end of August. We will continue to make improvements around the church which provide for a safer and more inviting facility for our members and our guests.

Sincerely,

Paul Mikula

Congregational Council President



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



Kay Dippel

Gladys Weber

JC Spacek

Annie and Wilburn Hackebeil

Jenelle Oeltjendiers

Dorothy Stolle

Dogie Keith

Joy Skelton

Albert Loehr, Jr.

Myrtle Friemel

Melvin Schilling

Florence Otto, Monument Hill

Juanita Frels, Care Inn

AC and Annazell Von Minden, Jefferson Place

Grace Robilio, Jefferson Place

Marianne Williams, Jefferson Place

Betty Schmidt, Schulenburg Regency

Mary Ann Butler, Westminster, Austin

Gloria Baumbach, Holly Hall Center, Houston

Mel Cameron, Concordia, Bella Vista AR

St. Paul Income/Expense Report For July 2024

INCOME	July	AMOUNT	EXPENSE	Amount
Offering Envelopes			Benevolence	4,746.60
Includes Rent	7/1	6,245.00	Salaries/Payroll Expense	15,126.74
	7/9	5,070.00	Landscape/Yard care	1,400.00
	7/15	4,671.00	Office Supplies/Equipment	943.83
	7/22	6,154.00	Postage	320.19
	7/29	5,941.00	Janitorial supply	124.87
			Worship	539.00
			Stewardship	40.00
MyEoffering		8,594.75	LYO to reimburse	1,466.81
			VBS food, background, rent	1,821.76
			Hospitality Ministry	87.64
			Kitchen Supplies	68.09
			Rental House Expense	500.00
			Radio/Outreach	214.00
			Software	35.42
			Campership	347.50
			Back to School Festival	1,000.00
			Pastor Stan Peru Mission	2,886.20
			Telephone/Internet	387.37
Interest		7.50	Utilities	2,002.86
TOTAL		\$36,683.25	TOTAL	34,058.88

What's Happening at St. Paul!

TACKY TUESDAY will meet Tuesday, September 17. 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. All are invited.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY—meets on Wednesday Mornings at 8:30 am in the Friendship Room. They will resume bible study on Wednesday, September 4 after having a summer break.

FRIENDS IN FAITH, our women's group, will meet on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the home of Kathy Toensing, 115 Rolling Hills Drive; La Grange. Elva Keilers will be leading the study of Chapter 4 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, September 9 at 6:30 pm at the home of Chuck and Karen Bellue, 5330 Sand Rock Road, La Grange. Chuck and Glenn Davis will be hosts. This is the planning meeting for the season. They will assign hosts for the monthly meetings and talk about activities and projects.

HANDBELLS—will meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays beginning September 11 in the sanctuary.

CHOIR—will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays beginning September 11 in the sanctuary.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL— will meet Tuesday, September 17, 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.

CONFIRMATION 2024-2025

Confirmation classes for all 7th and 8th graders will begin on Wednesday, September 11th in the Friendship Room at 5:00 p.m. The class will meet weekly for about 45 to 50 minutes. The focus this year will be on the Bible. Pastor Larson will be leading the class this year. If you have questions or concerns, please call the church office.



Hello Ladies,

Please save the date of Saturday, September 28 for the Western Cluster Fall Gathering at St. John in Warrenton. They'll serve brunch at 8:30 and the program will begin at 9:30. More info to follow but do get it on your calendar. Hope to see you there

Becky Collins
Communicator
WELCA
Western Cluster



Coming Soon!

Family Sunday Brunch will begin on Sunday, October 6. This group will offer brunch during the social hour after services in the Fellowship Hall. After the breakfast, families and their children will meet in the parlor to have a family learning activity and crafts with a Christian education theme. This will be the first Sunday of each month.

Second Saturday Cinema will begin on Saturday, October 12, 2024. St. Paul will be hosting a Parents Night Out. The event will be from 5-7pm and dinner will be served to those attending. The LYO youth will be assisting with the program. A movie will be shown and popcorn will be served during the movie. Registration forms will be placed on the Church WEB site and on the Facebook pages to assist with an idea of who is attending for meal preparation. Everyone is invited: this is NOT limited to parents with children! This will be the second Saturday of the month.

September Birthdays	
DATE	NAME
1	Annie Hackebeil, Georgia Hartley, Hunter Johnson
2	Kimberley Shows, Coy Magness
3	Riley Fisbeck
5	Brittini Keilers, Carson Rau, Frank Teykl
6	Chuck Bellue, Chad Childs
7	Rocky Rau, Jackie Skelton
8	Amanda Lamza, Brooke Oehlke
9	Darrell Moerbe, Camille Roselius, Bruce Speckels
10	Audrey Jackson
11	Tracy Mach
12	Shannon Teinert
13	Linda Anders, Debbie Busch, Jaston Davis
15	Peyton Jaster, Albert Loehr
17	Kindell Church, Maddi Mach, Benjamin Sustr
18	Boots Jewell
21	Doug Fritsch
22	Diane Berger, Marianne Williams
24	AC von Minden
25	Jordan Ayers, Denise Bell, Madison Mercer
26	Tyson Roscher
27	Christopher Anders, Dorothy Drab
28	Michael Mahlmann
29	Annette Citzler
30	Zachry Karish, Bradley Loehr



September Anniversaries		
NAME	DATE	Years
Sara & David Koehl	9/7	22
Katrina & Tyson Kurtz	9/10	13
Stephanie & Dennis Jurek	9/13	21
Dawn & Salar Mirran	9/14	27
Liz & Greg Mielke	9/15	12
Brenda & Dennis Ahlschlager	9/16	35
Linda & Wayne Anders	9/26	26

September Worship Assistants

9/1	
Ushers	Todd Oehlke, Gloria Raschke Gerald & JoLene Hughes, Bonnie Sladek
Lectors	Bonnie Sladek
Altar Guild	Ashleigh Parks
Flowers	OPEN
Fellowship Refreshments	Linda Morrison
9/8	
Ushers	Michael Mach, Linda Diers Hannah Bellue Holub, Kenny & Patti Weber
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Jackie Skelton
Flowers	In Memory of Verlene and Atlan Citzler
Fellowship Refreshments	OPEN
9/15	
Ushers	Bamba Scott, Caleb & Ashleigh Parks, Frank & Lisa Moellenberndt
Lectors	Caleb Parks
Altar Guild	JoLene & Gerald Hughes
Flowers	OPEN
Fellowship Refreshments	OPEN
9/22	
Ushers	Scott Toensing, Chuck & Karen Bellue James & Sharon Elias
Lectors	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Gloria Raschke
Flowers	Tim and Susan Knesek
Fellowship Refreshments	OPEN
9/29	
Ushers	Donnie Dippel, Tim Knesek, Lloyd & Sylvia Jewell, Rhonda Koether
Lectors	Lloyd Jewell
Altar Guild	Lisa Moellenberndt
Flowers	Atlan Citzler, Jr.
Fellowship Refreshments	OPEN

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

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

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.

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.

Dear St. Paul Hospitality Ministry servants and other St. Paul members:

At the funeral reception for Aleyn (Albers) Voss in January, Richard Voss, one of Aleyn and Rudolph Voss's grandchildren, came up to me to express his deep gratitude for our congregation's arranging and serving the luncheon after the service. I explained to him that this was a ministry we carried out gladly and that we offered to the bereaved families of all our members.

As a family that does not get together that often, I gather, the Vosses found great meaning in this event. Many of the grandchildren live far away, and not all of them could attend that day: Forest Voss, the youngest grandchild, was on duty with his Air Force unit somewhere in the Southern US, and heard the service on Facebook. The fact that those present could be together for a while longer before going their separate ways again after the burial was of great value to them all.

Those of you who serve with Team One probably received (as I did) a Bible engraved with my name on the cover and inscribed inside on the presentation page, along with selected Bible verses, from Aleyn Albers Voss. What my Bible also contained (it slipped out later, while I was hunting up those highlighted Bible verses) was a note card in an envelope addressed to St. Paul Hospitality Ministry, c/o Annette Citzler. Inside was a check made out to the Hospitality Ministry for quite a significant sum of money!!!

I went into shock: I cried, then I laughed, then I cried again. What could we possibly have done to deserve such a donation??? I just want you all to know what the note inside the card said, for it is written to ALL those who serve in this ministry, whether a part of Team One or TWO or THREE or FOUR or FIVE:

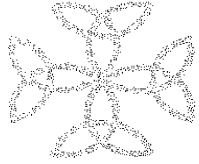
Ms. Citzler, My grandmother and grandfather left their grandkids some money. Please accept this from them (Aleyn and Rudolph) to help support all of God's Love y'all share through St. Paul Lutheran Hospitality Ministry. Generations of love by Lovely Heart-Driven Ladies, by serving those in times when they need it. Faithful servants, they would want y'all to have this. Thank You.

[No Signature]

We can sometimes be wearied by the work, but we seldom hear how it touches the hearts of those who attend those luncheons and just what it means to THEM. This is CLEARLY evidence that our work is one effective way of God's reaching others through the work of our hands and the love in our hearts for those in an hour of sorrow. --

Annette Citzler

PS: If you are not a member of one of the teams and would like to be a part of this ministry at St. Paul, please call the office to be assigned to one of the ministry groups. And the groups' membership is NOT limited to ladies! ac



KINDRED

August 4, 2024

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
110 W Walnut St.
La Grange, TX 78945

Siblings in Christ,

Greetings from +KINDRED Church in Montrose to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at St. Paul's in La Grange.

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and Jesus Christ our Brother.

We thank God for you and pray for you all and your ministry in the community of La Grange. Your gift of \$15,000, on behalf of the church of St. Paul's and the Holy Spirit, was a gift which met our need so we can continue to do the good work we are called to do in our community.

Together, +KINDRED provides advocacy that reduces suffering by responding to inequality and seeking to give comfort, hope, and power to the dispossessed. We feed each other by gathering around the table to share a meal, to wonder, and to experience the holy in the faces of those around us. And we help our neighbors in need by providing access to resources within and outside of our walls.

We have an aging facility, but she is more sturdy now that we have completed several repairs, including those to some of the ACs, our sewer, and our roof. This work enables us to provide a safe and comfortable space to those who are served under our roof: our Dinner Church community, the youth and young adults who participate in Grace Place, three AA groups, the Kindred Kitchen students, those who use our space for laundry and shower needs, community event groups, and in extreme weather, those who seek shelter in our cooling or warming center.

God has given us a call to walk the path laid before us. We do not know the plan, but we know that God will provide for us. Your unbidden gift is evidence of that, and we are grateful to you.

Sincerely,

+KINDRED

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:00 Worship 10:00 Adult Education</p>	<p>2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm LYO NO PRAISE BAND</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:00 Worship Praise Band Service 10:00 Adult Education</p>	<p>9 6:30 pm Fishers of Men Friends in Faith</p>	<p>10 2:00 pm Altar Guild in Friendship Room</p>	<p>11 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</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:00 Worship 10:00 Adult Education</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 8:30 am Tacky Tuesday 6:00 pm Church Council</p>	<p>18 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</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:00 Worship Praise Band Service 10:00 Adult Education</p>	<p>23 OCTOBER Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 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</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 LGISD Home Game</p>	<p>28 8:30 am WELCA Western Cluster Conference at St. John's in Warrenton</p>
<p>29 9:00 Worship 10:00 Adult Education</p>	<p>30</p>					

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

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 SEPTEMBER 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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