



Messenger

September 2022

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The *What* and the *How*

An important step in **how** we call our next pastor has arrived. Our Call Committee has agreed to serve. They have come before the congregation to be installed amidst prayers and thanks. They have met with the Assistant to the Bishop for orientation and planning. All of these steps are familiar to St. Paul members as “how we call a pastor”.

People, especially goal-oriented people, have a tendency to focus on “what” instead of “how”. We often make our plans and decisions based on “what” we think will happen and “what” the outcome will be. Sometimes church life can be frustrating because, at church, we often focus on “how”. We make plans and decisions by way of courteous conversation, including a variety of views, and respect for boundaries. The “how” needs to include all of our members, consideration of our ever-changing ministry, and a wide variety of hopes. That is not always the fastest way to reach a decision and the “what” has to wait while the “how” directs the conversation.

In the process of calling our next pastor the “what” is obvious: “What” is the name of our next Pastor? But let’s not forget the “how”. It is time to think about our church, our community, the people who gather at St. Paul and our strengths. If we try to name our new pastor without a time of self-examination, we may start the habit of identifying the ministry of St. Paul with the pastor and forget that ministry is the privilege of all of our people. The Call Committee is beginning the process of gathering information about our congregation, our history, our community, and our values – all vital information for us to have as we consider calling our next pastor.

Of course, we look forward to knowing who the next Pastor will be, but when that Pastor comes it will be a person who leads in growing, relationships, and constant learning. St. Paul Lutheran Church will continue to focus on “how”, not because we do not care about the goal – the “what” – but because we already have achieved the goal. God loves us. The “what”, God’s love, is a free gift that we celebrate in this wonderful family of St. Paul. Now we will spend our energy sharing “how” we will live in God’s love.

Pastor Sappenfield



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Tuesday, August 16th your council met. After minutes were approved and the statistical report given committee reports were shared. There will be a meeting of the Property Committee on Tuesday, August 30th at 6:00. A walk through the building and the grounds will be conducted with a list of tasks created. Just as in our own homes repairs and improvements are always popping up and it is important to keep up with them. We encourage all members of that committee as well as anyone else who would like to attend to join us.

During the Pastor's Report Pastor Bill shared that on Monday, August 15th, the Call committee met with Tracey Breshears Schultz, Assistant to the Bishop, for orientation. Pastor Tracey suggested that it would take two to three months to complete the Ministry Site Profile and after that is complete candidates who have an interest interviewing here will be sent our way. When I say "sent our way" I mean that the synod does not choose those candidates but serves as a facilitator in the call process. Who we choose to be our next pastor and who chooses this congregation is a commitment and ministry between us. The committee will meet twice a month. Sylvia Jewell serves as committee chair. Ashleigh Parks is the secretary. Tim Knesek is the correspondent whose responsibility it is to communicate with the congregation and the synod office. Gary Anders, Sandra Teykl and Hannah Bellue also serve.

The council received an update on the construction of our new website. It is moving along but slower than initially expected. They are in the content creation phase currently. Please take and share pictures of any ministry in which you are involved. This month we are looking to update the current website as we await the new one.

The pew cushions are on the way and carpet for the Friendship Room and Library has been ordered to be purchased with renovation funds.

The Guidelines for Use of Church Facilities have been updated as well. The last update was in 2011 so it was well overdue. This may be an ongoing process. Since the council meeting, practices concerning the use of streaming for funerals have been brought to light and addressed. Just for your information the funeral of Dick Smith a member of First Presbyterian will be held here Saturday, August 27th. Due to the anticipated size of the funeral the family is renting our facility.

Under New Business the need for a nursery was discussed. When members were speaking with Pastor Bill about the future of Saint Paul a repeated theme was the desire to attract young families into our congregation. I have spoken with parents of young children asking what they needed to meet the needs of their family when attending church. Their response was they would come more often if there was a nursery where they could go with the children if needed and still hear the service. In coming months this will be a focus again as it was in the past.

Finally, at the council's urging I am asking for help from the congregation. Sunday School for the new school year has begun. In the past we had many Sunday School teachers and were able to offer age-appropriate learning opportunities. Due to a decrease in attendance of young families for whatever reason we have one Sunday School class serving kindergarteners through sixth grade, five-year olds to twelve-year olds. Ideally there should be a 3-5-year-old class, a 1st-3rd grade class and a 4th-6th grade class. I can assure you young parents with children will not come if we have no ministry for them. As in many situations you ask which comes first the chicken or the egg. Which comes first the children or the classes? None of this can happen without teachers. Please join me in rebooting this ministry. Saint Paul needs it to grow, and the children need it to grow as well. Please contact me or Dianne Lude and we will be happy to visit with you about how this can work into your schedule.

Shalom,

Karen Bellue, council president



GARY ANDERS—a lifelong member, Gary has served on Property Committee and on Church Council. Faithful, modest, organized, he has long volunteered as a cook for the dinners at Annual Meetings, Celebration Sunday events, and at Circle of Love gatherings. Co-owner of Leward Anders and Sons (Gravel Operations/Hauling/Road Work/Construction), he is married to wife Barbara; their daughter and son-in-law plus two grandsons are frequent guests for family gatherings. Gary enjoys cheering for his grandsons at their sports events as well, time permitting. Gary says that his faith has been “real important” to him, ever since his Luther League experiences in high school years, allowing him to live his life as it’s meant to be lived, “with honesty.”

ASHLEIGH PARKS—Member at St. Paul for the past two years, Ashleigh is Development Associate at Fayette Community Foundation in La Grange. She came to St. Paul through her spouse, Caleb, whom she met working at Lutherhill Ministries, where she was on the staff for four summers before her graduation from TAMU. She had previously attended a variety of churches and denominations, and finds that as a Lutheran at St. Paul, she “can be the person God created me to be, loved as who I am.” Stubborn, caring, service-oriented, Ashleigh grew up in Beaumont and Katy, TX, with two older siblings, a sister and brother. She now has two nieces as well. At St. Paul, she serves as an LYO Leader, recently joined Altar Guild, and helps at funerals with food and serving, as well as being interested in helping to rejuvenate the nursery program for parents of small children. A stroll around the square in La Grange is her most enjoyable pastime when she can do it.

SANDRA TEKYL—Driven, organized, private, Sandra has been a member of St. Paul for about 35 years, and has worked with Sunday School, confirmation and youth ministries, as well as serving on Church Council, plus Finance, Budget, Audit, and Investment Committees. She volunteers at Second Chance also. Retired from her career work as Chief Financial Officer at Fayette Savings Bank, she now serves on the bank’s Board of Directors. She and husband Frank came to join St. Paul after they moved to La Grange, and she says they were impressed with the strong youth program here, as well as finding then Pastor Bill Hassel to be “very personable and engaging.” The Tekyls have three sons and six grandkids. Sandra enjoys traveling and loves “picnics in interesting settings.”

SYLVIA JEWELL—Sylvia has been a member at St. Paul for about a year and a half. She and husband Lloyd came to their Weimar hay farm on their retirement in 2019, and to their involvement at St. Paul through Sylvia’s engagement with the women’s group and his commitment to the music ministry, saying “People welcomed us here.” She volunteers at Second Chance, Amen Food Pantry, and VBS, is a member of Friends in Faith and the Funerals Committee. Caring, funny, and helpful, Sylvia grew up in Houston, the oldest of four siblings and only girl. Her parents are in assisted living, and she is heavily involved in their care-giving and medical needs. For fun, Sylvia and Lloyd enjoy working on their land, eating out with friends, and listening to live music. In addition, Sylvia “drops by” some of the businesses in their area with cookies, candy, or pies she bakes herself. She says “Christian faith grounds me, helps me keep my life in order with perspective, and give me Hope.”

HANNAH BELLUE—A lifelong member at St. Paul, Hannah was baptized, had her first communion, and was confirmed in this congregation, where in her younger days she enjoyed Sunday School, LYO, and Choir on Wednesdays. Professionally, she is an attorney practicing in the areas of estate planning and probate law. Daughter of Chuck and Karen Bellue, she appreciates that they chose to join St. Paul so the family could benefit from its vibrant youth programs. Hannah recently has focused much time and energy on renovating the Nursery Room in the Fellowship Hall. In her other spare time, “when conditions are right,” she loves to kayak the Colorado River with her dad, and also loves planning daytrips with her nieces and nephews. Sincere, hard-working, caring, Hannah loves the song refrain, “They’ll know we are Christians by our love” and she does her best to let that idea guide her faith and life.

TIM KNESEK—Market President of Capital Farm Credit’s Houston Region, but working from the local office, Tim and his family joined St. Paul in 1995 after they moved to La Grange. He and Susan have two daughters, both married, one in Houston (with two children) and one in New York City. At St. Paul, Tim has long been part of Fishers of Men and Praise Band, served on a number of committees (including previously on a Call Committee), and was Vice-President and President of the Congregation/Council. Hard-working, fair, and forgiving, Tim enjoys working with his brother in Burleson County at their cow-calf operation (in the family for over a century), hunting, fishing, and (in summer) getting away to the cooler mountains. His faith stems from his parents’ example: raised to consider WWJD [“What Would Jesus Do?”], he says it “helps break down life’s most complicated questions.”



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Music is alive at St. Paul Lutheran Church! We currently have an adult vocal choir, hand bell choir, and a praise band. Our worship services are traditional but some of the music is more contemporary when the praise band leads worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. (This is sometimes changed) We welcome anyone who wants to join any, more than one, or all of these groups to enhance our worship! Our music groups are considered an integral part of worship, not groups who just perform. Anyone is welcome to join any of the groups!

Practice Schedule: (sometimes adjusted during Lent) All rehearsals are on Wednesdays in the sanctuary.

Bells: 6:00 pm

Choir: 7:00 pm

Praise: 8:00 pm

All rehearsals will begin Wed. Sept. 7, 2022

An additional note regarding the hand bell choir

We do desire a level of commitment to the bell choir, for attending rehearsals and playing during the worship services. Our plan, for the upcoming church year is to play the 4th Sunday of each month, which can certainly be adjusted when/if necessary. This may help the decision to commit to the bell choir. We welcome ANYONE who would like to learn to play hand bells, and we hope to have our regulars return as well as lots of new faces!

For questions, please contact Kathy Toensing 979-966-3376

QUILTING MONDAY

Monday Morning Quilters (Hand Quilting) meet every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Quilting Room in the Fellowship Hall. They are presently working on a quilt "Trip Around The World" for one of our members. Proceeds for custom quilting go to Lutheran World Relief. (NOTE: In September we will NOT meet on Labor Day)

TACKY TUESDAY is Tuesday, Sept. 20 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Join them in tying knots in quilts, pinning quilts, pressing fabrics, or just fellowship. We will have a Potluck Lunch at 11:45 am. This month we will have a Salad Luncheon. Bring your favorite salad to share!! We always have lots of wonderful conversation!! All are welcome – NO EXPERIENCE necessary!! These quilts are for Lutheran World Relief and go all over the World, including the US!!

FRIENDS IN FAITH, our women's group, will meet Monday, September 12 at 7pm at the home of Patty Ehler, 405 S. Pecan, La Grange. You are welcome to join them for an evening of fun, fellowship and discussion. Bring a Friend!

FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group, will meet Monday, September 19 at 6:30pm at the home of Chuck Bellue, 5330 Sand Rock Rd., La Grange.

HANDBELL CHOIR - meets on Wednesdays beginning 9/7 at 6:00

CHOIR—meets on Wednesdays beginning 9/7 at 7:00

PRAISE BAND - meets on Wednesdays at 8:00

Help Children Thrive by making School Kits

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Consider what happens when a family cannot afford school supplies for all of their children. Or, consider a family who lost everything in a hurricane or other disaster. How can they prioritize what their children need for school when they're scrambling to find food and shelter?

Education is a critical tool to overcoming poverty

All the data shows that education is a critical piece of the puzzle for creating healthier, more prosperous futures for children— and especially for girls.

And did you know that returning children to school as soon as possible after a disaster reduces the long-term effects of trauma?

Education is hope and empowerment. You can help more children access it by making Lutheran World Relief School Kits!

Make School Kits for Children in need

LWR School Kits contain essential supplies to help children — and in some cases, adults — continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities. Reprinted LWR.org

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
2022 Second Chance Work Schedule
September 20—26**

Nov. 1-7

*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

2022 AMEN volunteer schedule

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mondays
(with La Grange Church of Christ)

September 12

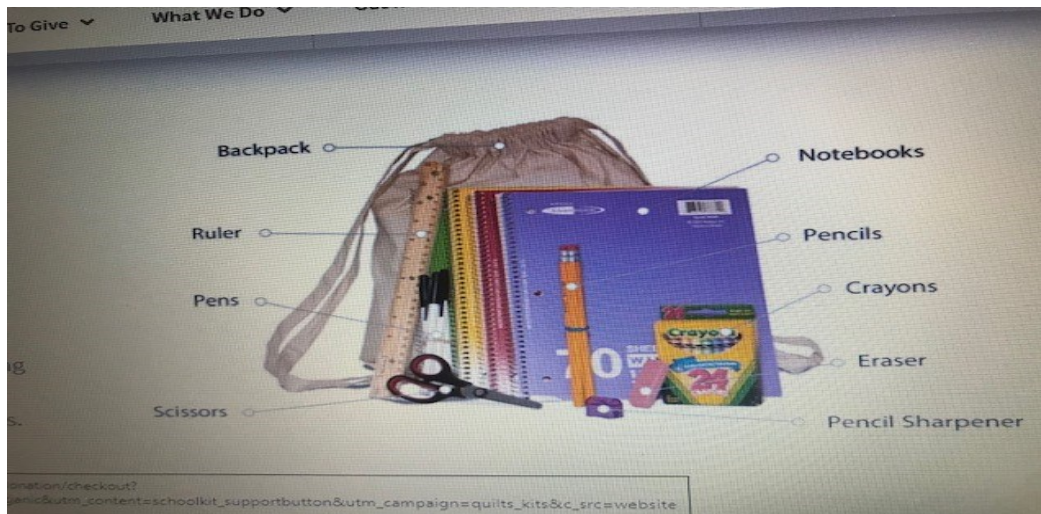
is St. Paul day to work at AMEN

Oct. 10

Nov. 14 Dec. 12

St. Paul's AMEN Coordinator is Mannie Fritsch Schmid. Please contact her at 979-968-3382 if you would like to volunteer.

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 grocery basket is located in the Narthex for your donations.



Lutheran World Relief

Helping Children Thrive by preparing School Kits

Envelopes will be available in the Bulletins on the

Weekends of September 3rd and 4th and September 10th and 11th

for free will donations to cover the expenses for the supplies purchased for the school kits.

Prayerfully consider donating to this call to help others who are less fortunate and who will benefit from a gifted school kit.

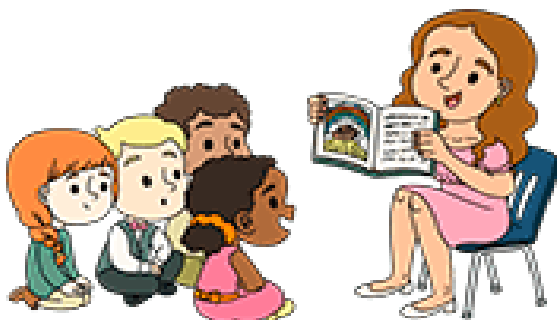
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church has been blessed over the years with Administrative Educators, Support School Staff and Classroom Teachers. Perhaps you may choose to acknowledge the 'gift' of the school educator, Sunday School Teacher, and LYO Sponsor who have given their time over the years with the suggested **\$8.00** cost for one school kit.

September Birthdays	
DATE	NAME
1	Annie Hackebeil, Georgia Hartley, Hunter Johnson
2	Coy Magness
3	Riley Fisbeck
5	Brittni Keilers, Carson Rau, Frank Teykl
6	Chuck Bellue
7	Rocky Rau, Jackie Skelton
8	Amanda Lamza, Brooke Oehlke
9	Bruce Speckels, Darrell Moerbe
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
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
29	Annette Citzler
30	Zachry Karish, Bradley Loehr

September Anniversaries		
NAME	DATE	YEARS
Sara & David Koehl	9/7	20
Katrina & Tyson Kurtz	9/10	11
Stephanie & Dennis Jurek	9/13	19
Dawn & Salar Mirran	9/14	25
Liz & Greg Mielke	9/15	10
Brenda & Dennis Ahlschlager	9/16	33
Linda & Wayne Anders	9/26	24



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Meets in the Friendship Room at 10:30 on Sunday Mornings. In September we will discuss the Gospels. Why are there four Gospels? How did they come to be written? What are the differences between them? Come for a lively discussion among friends who share your faith and your curiosity.



Children's Ministry

Would you like to be a part of St Paul's Children's Ministry? There is a need for Sunday School teachers. One of the topics mentioned during Pastor Bill's conversations with parishioners is the desire to have families and children active in the church. Providing a Sunday School program could help encourage this participation. If you are interested, please call Karen Bellue or Dianne Lude.

SERVANT PAGE

	5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Sept 3 & 4		
Ushers	Rhonda Koether and Annette Citzler	Frank & Lisa Moellenberndt
Lectors	To Be Determined	Cindy Hengst
Altar Guild	Sharon Elias	Janet Coronado
Flowers	Annette Citzler	
Sept 10 & 11		
Ushers	John D. & Kay Marburger	Wayne Anders Family
Lectors	To Be Determined	Frank Teykl
Altar Guild	Faye Bresan	Faye Bresan
Flowers	Elva & Royce Keilers	
Sept 17 & 18		
Ushers	James & Sharon Elias	Gerald & JoLene Hughes
Lectors	To Be Determined	Praise Band
Altar Guild	JoLene & Gerald Hughes	JoLene & Gerald Hughes
Flowers		
Sept 24 & 25		
Ushers	Richard & Danette Coufal	Frank & Sandra Teykl
Lectors	To Be Determined	Hannah Bellue
Altar Guild	Jackie Skelton	Ginger Friemel
Flowers		

SMORES & CHAMPAGNE GALA for Lutherhill Ministries on Saturday, September 10, 2022 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel. Visit the Lutherhill website for instructions to register or bid on auction items.

HEALTHY HOME COOKING – Cooking Well with Diabetes series offered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service begins on October 6 for 3 consecutive Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30. If interested contact Sally Garrett at 979-968-5831.



THANK YOU—the LYO would like to thank all who supported their Summer Trip to California. Youth on the trip were: Gunner Jurek, Hunter Sabo, Hannah Burnham, Rory Halpain, Bryn Colon, Judith Almeida, Meadow Taylor-Marklin, Hailey Kelly and Jarron Fajkus. Sponsors were Caleb Parks, Ashleigh Parks and MiLissa Gaertner. There was time for bible studies, conservation projects, and adventure.

TO St. Paul LYO Scholarship Committee and LYO,
Thank you for the scholarship money. It is greatly appreciated and will help me to further my education. *Rory Halpain*

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:30</p>	<p>5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Bells @ 6:00 Choir @ 7:00 Praise Band @ 8:00</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Worship 5pm</p>
<p>11 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:30</p>	<p>12 Quilters 9am Friends in Faith 7pm St. Paul at AMEN</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Bells @ 6:00 Choir @ 7:00 Praise Band @ 8:00</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Worship 5pm</p>
<p>18 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:30</p>	<p>19 Quilters 9am Fishers of Men 6:30</p>	<p>20 Tacky Tuesday 8:30 Church Council 6pm ST PAUL @ SECOND</p>	<p>21 Bells @ 6:00 Choir @ 7:00 Praise Band @ 8:00 CHANCE >>>>>>> Chance this week</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Worship 5pm</p>
<p>25 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:30</p>	<p>26 Quilters 9am SECOND CHANGE</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Bells @ 6:00 Choir @ 7:00 Praise Band @ 8:00</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	

St. Paul 2022 Congregation Council

Karen Bellue, President (979)966-2889 call or text

Paul Mikula, Vice-President

Ginger Friemel, Secretary

Donnie Dippel, Treasurer

Russell Dittrich, Mission/Peru

Atlan Citzler, Jr., Stewardship/Finance/Endowment

David Ehler, Property

Frank Macaulay, Outreach/Social Ministry

Michael Mach, Worship/Technology

Dianne Lude, Youth/Parish Education

Parish Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday

9:00 a.m.-4:00 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

Sherise Davis, *Organist*

Jean McHenry, *Organist*

Kathy Toensing, *Adult Choir/Praise Band Choir*

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

MESSENGER September 2022

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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