



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

August 2023

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is something so exciting about fruit trees "bearing fruit." One day I went outside and got up close to my plum tree and found little fruit growing on the branches. I noticed the fruit when it was still green. As the baby plums grew and turned red, I got excited for a good crop of plums. Life got busy for me, and I neglected to check on my plum tree. When I went out to pick the fruit, it was not there. All gone. The birds had gotten the first fruit. Next year, I will have to be a lot faster than the birds.

Cheerfully, as the Lord's children and in gratefulness for what the Lord has given us, it is our best practice to be intentional and give our offerings to the Lord first. This is first fruits giving which supports the church and its ministries.

Will you consider "first fruits" giving if you are not already doing so? In the Hebrew Scriptures in Exodus 23:19 there is a command for the Hebrew people: "*The choicest of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God.*" Christians can certainly apply this wisdom to our offerings of giving our best, the first fruits of our time/talents/financial and other resources in thankfulness to the Lord. This is a response of trust in God who in the *first place* is the giver of all good.

Living Lutheran magazine, in a study guide called, "A win, win, win!" shares this: "A Lutheran pastor tells of his father, who worked in a steel mill and cashed his paycheck at the bank every Friday. Before he spent a single cent, his dad would put Sunday's church offering in an envelope and seal it."

What does it say about this father's commitment to church? About his trust in God's providence? About his faith?

Encouragement to the church as we bless the Lord and live out our faith!
Pastor Nancy Simpson





AUGUST

Birthdays

2 – John Schlobohm
 3—Pat Jeschke
 3 – Sandra McGee
 4 – Corbin Haro
 4 – Morgan Perry
 6 – Ben Vircant
 8—Linda Hendricks
 7—Ayden Davis
 10 – Adrienne Stevens
 15 - Kazin Ramoudit
 15 – Peyton Parker
 16 – Steve Rouyer
 18—Aaron Forcier
 21 - Don Eschberger
 23 - Lana Lauderdale
 25 – Camille Soileau
 28—Cat Mahan
 31 – Lauren Perry

Baptismal Anniversaries

3—Haley Perry
 4 – Jeanie Herrington
 4 – Rená Holle Chavers
 6 – Donna Reavis
 7 – Dorothy Johnston
 8 - Claire Lucke
 8 - Paul Lucke
 13 – Robyn Soileau
 14—Hudson Migl
 14 – Reneé Simons
 15 - Gavin Parker
 15 - Cori Stephens
 15 - Mike Stephens
 19 – Kent Rein
 20—Morgan Perry
 26 - John Schlobohm
 31 - Megan Hess

Wedding Anniversaries

1 - Paul & Elaine Lucke
 7 – Hoya & Angie Ash
 10 – Eugene & A.M. Chauviere
 18 – Ian & Debbie Gillespie

Thank You

- Thank you to Ian Gillespie, Hoya Ash, Kurt and Kelly Migl, Darren and Natalie Seymour, Daucy Crizer, and John Schlobohm for the lawn maintenance
- To Rosie Haas for keeping our flower beds looking great and for supplying the beautiful geraniums on Pentecost Sunday.
- To Bubba Gonzalez, Stan White, and David Andrews for taking the trash to the curb
- Beehive Florist for the fresh floral arrangements for worship
- To Airi Ramen Restaurant for supplying lunch for our Food Pantry volunteers monthly
- To our Food Pantry volunteers for all their hard work. And thank you to the Houston Food Bank for providing us with food. We couldn't do it without you!
- To the knitters and crocheters for the prayer shawls & hospital blankets
- To Ian Gillespie for putting a mic on the grand piano
- To Bobbi Howard for playing the Trumpet in Sunday worship
- To all who brought food for our potluck and those who setup and cleaned up afterward
- To Rosie Haas and Kurt Migl, our Eucharist Ministers
- To you dear congregation, thank you for actively participating in the life of St. Paul's and beyond

Golden Group Activities

Monthly Luncheon

Tuesday, August 15th at 11:30am

Antonio's Italian Grill, Baytown

There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall

Bus Trip

Wednesday, August 30th at 8:30am. Cost: \$3

Shopping on Westheimer

- Central Market
- Crate & Barrel
- Phoenician Market
- Lunch at Pappadeaux (on your own)
- Trader Joe's

Text or email Lorrie for more info:

281-382-9770 landrews1124@gmail.com





Back to School Backpack Blessing New Driver Blessing

Sunday, August 13th during worship

Remember to bring your backpacks that Sunday so you and the backpacks can get blessed!

We will also have the **New Driver Milestone Blessing** that day. Please contact the office or Donna Reavis if your teen will be a new driver.



Youth & Family Connect Back-to-School Bowling Extravaganza

When: August 13th

Where: Max Bowl

720 Ward Rd, Baytown

Time: 1:00.m

All ages are welcome to join us in this fun family activity in the cool A/C to celebrate the new school year.

Save the Date

September Flea Market

Saturday September 16th 9:00-2:00.

This new event is similar to our annual Flea Market in March with a few differences. We will not be serving BBQ and we will not have a church booth. Parking lot spaces will go on sale at the end of August for \$25 a spot. Please see Donna Reavis for any questions.



Bobbi Howard plays the Star Spangled Banner on Trumpet after the worship



Eli Garcia will do his Eagle Scout project here at St. Paul's. Eli was a St. Paul's After School Kiddo.

David Andrews dropped by for a visit with Jake Fojt



God's Work. Our Hands.

Sunday September 10th

This year we will be collecting items for the Houston International Seafarers Christmas Shoebox Program.

What is God's Work. Our Hands?

On this dedicated day of service, thousands of ELCA churches celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Houston International Seafarers Center

The Houston International Seafarers Center exists to provide a physical and social presence as well as various related services for all seafarers coming to the Port Houston. We visit ships everyday, 7 a days a week, 365 days a year. We are a secure resource for transportation, various communication service tools, building relationships and providing a safe harbor for all visiting our Center.

Christmas Shoebox Program

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of seafarers, as well as of children; a wonderful connection for Christmas Giving to the Seafarers! Each year approximately 8,000 to 11,000 Christmas boxes are provided free of charge to our visiting Seafarers. Decorated shoe boxes filled with many useful items are donated by numerous community churches, school children, individuals and corporations from Texas and through the Midwest.

COLLECTING SHOEBOX ITEMS

Stress Ball
 Games
 Playing Cards
 Word Search/Sudoku/Fill-in books
 Gum & Hard Candy
 Popcorn
 NESCAFE Instant Coffee
 Socks
 Cold Weather Caps
 Balaclavas

T-shirts (NEW)
 Light Weight Work Gloves
 2024 Pocket Calendar
 Multi-Vitamins / Fish Oil
 Texas Magnets
 Texas Souvenirs
 Texas Key Chains
 Small Bibles (NIV, RSV)
 Devotional materials
 Earbuds/Headphones

Small Whistle
 Baseball Caps/Beanie's (NEW)
 Small Flashlight w/ batteries
 Signed Personal note
 Christmas Card



A collection table is in the Fellowship Hall. Plastic shoeboxes will be provided. We will assemble and wrap the Christmas shoeboxes on **Sunday September 10th**. There will be a table for making Christmas cards which will go in the boxes.



CELEBRATING 11 YEARS OF FEEDING HIS SHEEP! On July 31, 2023, St. Paul's Lutheran Church Food Pantry celebrated eleven years of partnership with the Houston Food Bank. Things have certainly changed since our first days. We started with about 35 clients and we wondered if we would grow. Now we are serving approximately 140 family units every Thursday and 211 emergency clients during the week. Thank you to the Houston Food Bank, the congregation, and people in the community who have made this such a successful ministry.



Food Pantry News

Donations of canned tuna continue to be a blessing for the Food Pantry. There is a collection tote in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you! We also need grocery bags. Please drop off your grocery bags in the trash bin in the Coke room. Thank you!



Thank you to Clarke Crizer and grandsons: Jackson and Logan (not pictured) Crizer for donating money toward the purchase of a new chest freezer (now named the "Crizer Cooler") for the Food Pantry.

FROM THE TREASURER		June	
Needed weekly, \$4815 to cover General Fund Expenses.		Monthly Activity	
General Fund Income YTD	\$137,757.41	\$18,340.54	\$156,097.95
General Fund Expenses YTD	\$(98,596.94)	\$(18,436.71)	\$(117,033.65)
	\$39,160.47	\$(96.17)	\$39,064.30

July Memorials & Honorariums

In MEMORY of:

George Rosas
(volunteer & friend of the Food Pantry)

Given By:

David & Lorrie Andrews

Designation:

Food Pantry

Church Council 2023

- Ian Gillespie President/Property
- John Schlobohm Vice President
- Kim Holle Treasurer
- Angie Ash Secretary

Members at Large

- Susan Clanton Worship & Music
- Rosie Haas In/Out Comm. Liaison
- Kurt Migl Property Comm. Liaison
- Donna Reavis Education/Youth & Fam
- Clarke Crizer Member at Large
- Luis Estrada Member at Large
- Becky Linsenbardt Member at Large
- Beverly Tomsic Member at Large

Titheley Online Giving

Scan the QR Code with your smartphone's camera to give online.

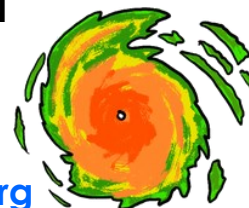


IT'S HURRICANE SEASON

Be Prepared!

Learn How to be a 72 hour Lutheran at

www.stpaulsbaytown.org



Pastor Nancy was invited to christen a tug boat in Channelview, TX. We met Chaplain Dallas Hughes who introduced us to the family who owns the tug and the crew. The tug was christened the Eva Luz. The crew and family were very hospitable and friendly. We were invited to take a boat ride, take turns driving the tug, then treated to a delicious lunch.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baytown, TX
Council Meeting July 13, 2023

Members Present: Pastor Nancy, Ian Gillespie, Donna Reavis, Kurt Migl, Susan Clanton, Becky Linsenbardt, Luis Estrada, Clarke Crizer, Beverly Tomsic, Angie Ash, Kim Holle, Rosie Haas **Members Absent:** John Schlobohm

The meeting was called to order by President Ian Gillespie 6:35 PM. Pastor Nancy led the group in the opening prayer.

Faith Story Luis Estrada presented his faith story.

JUNE COUNCIL MINUTES Susan Clanton MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded to approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2023, Council meeting. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Susan Clanton, Jada Hylton, and Pastor are interviewing individuals for the Director of Music Ministries position. They have interviewed three individuals and are taking more resumes.
- Becky Linsenbardt questioned if the organ is in proper working order. Angie Ash MOVED, Susan Clanton seconded, that Becky contact Allen Organ Company to determine the cost of having them check the organ for any problems. Motion carried.
- Eli Garcia, former student in St. Paul's After School Program, would like to do a project for St. Paul's as part of earning his Eagle Scout badge and has asked for ideas for his project. The following three ideas are considerations that will be forwarded to him: Bench area redo (at the corner of the church office area), Landscape back fence with the cross, Landscaping on 146 feeder side of church
- Considering new member classes.
- Old computers and cords will be donated to Stuart Career Center Tech High School in Baytown, teaching students. They will then be forwarded on to needy students to use. A new solid state hard drive has been ordered for Jada Hylton's computer.
- Thank you to Susan Clanton and Jada Hylton for organizing and preparing areas such as Choir/organ loft, vestry, and bell closet in preparation for a new Director of Music Ministries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kim Holle presented the financials through June. June expenses exceeded income in the amount of \$96.17. Donna Reavis MOVED, Rosie Haas seconded, to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Church Insurance Renewal- Ian Gillespie asked that this item be tabled until another quote is obtained.

NEW BUSINESS

- Security System Review - Tabled until more information is obtained.
- Church Cleaning Contract-Tabled

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Inreach/Outreach

- Golden Group Lunch for July will be July 18 at Kelley's Country Cookin'.
- Potluck lunch will be on July 30.
- God's Work, Our Hands will be September 10. Our community project will possibly be Christmas boxes for Seafarers at the Port of Houston.
- Prayer shawl/hospital blanket blessing will be July 30.

Youth and Family

- Rally Day and Backpack Blessing will be August 13. Instead of a back to school pool party, a back to school bowling party is scheduled for August 13 at Max Bowl on Ward Rd. at 1:00 PM after church services.
- Youth Connect will now be called Youth & Family Connect with a focus on having family activities.
- September Flea Market will be held Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 – 2:00. There will be no BBQ and no church booth. An office angel is needed for Friday September 15 to assist people in buying spots.

Property

- Kurt reported an AC problem with the unit in the nursery and rest rooms area.

The Green Book was reviewed. Clarke and Luis need green books.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next Council meeting will be August 10.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Ash, Secretary

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA
712 Schilling Avenue
Baytown, TX 77520
Tel (281)422-9333
stpaulssecretary@comcast.net



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



5th Sunday Potluck