



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

FEBRUARY 2024

Hello St. Paul's and Friends,

The church season of Lent quietly moves upon us in February, as we take to heart the betrayal, suffering, and passion of Jesus, as he makes his journey to the cross at Golgotha (meaning Place of a Skull). What love Jesus shows for us and all humankind, that he would die on the cross to forgive our sins and the sins of the world, never backing down from reaching out with the love of God.

The official start of Lent is Ash Wednesday (on Valentine's Day Feb. 14), with our church service at 7:00 p.m.. We are all encouraged to renew spiritual disciplines such as prayer, charitable giving, fasting, reading our Bible, and spending time in religious devotion/services. Reach out to others to invite and welcome them to join in this time of Lenten discipline (40 days before Easter).

This year's midweek Wednesday special Lenten soup/devotion gatherings will be in the daytime at 11:30 a.m. We will have dramatic monologues, you won't want to miss, from the perspective of well-known people in the Bible. They will come to life for us as we hear of their faith journey to Jesus. They will encourage us and move us closer to believe and follow Jesus as his disciples. Hope you can be here for these!

Wed. Feb. 21 – *Peter's mother-in-law*

Wed. Feb. 28 – *Mary Magdalene*

Wed. March 6 – *Thomas*

Wed. March 13 – *Martha*

Wed. March 20 – *Lazarus*



Blessing in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Nancy

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

5 – Hoya Ash
 8 – Jake Lorfing
 8—Kathryn Wright
 10 – Wes Bruner
 13 – Arlen Holle
 14—Robert Ziegler
 16 – Bryce Barnes
 21 – Jim Herrington
 21 – Ashley Rein

Baptismal Anniversaries

2—Michael Mathews Jr.
 11 - Lauren Perry
 22- Lori Viereck
 22- Kurstyn Clarke
 24—Mateo DelosSantos

In Sympathy

Kenneth Robert Peting
 April 20, 1927 – January 18, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY CONFIRMATION CLASS

For Baptized 5th Grade & Up
 Sunday, February 4th
 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
 (in the parlor)

Prayer Shawl & Hospital Blanket Blessing

Sun., February 25th

If you know of someone in need of a shawl please come to the church office.



Thank You

- Thank you to Hoya Ash, Kurt and Kelly Migl, and John Schlobohm for the lawn maintenance
- To Rosie Haas for keeping our flower beds looking great
- Beehive Florist for the fresh floral arrangements for worship
- To our Food Pantry volunteers for all their hard work.
- To the knitters and crocheters for the prayer shawls & hospital blankets
- To our Eucharistic Ministers for doing home communion for our shut-ins and hospitalized church members
- To Luis Estrada for providing the Epiphany King Cake
- To Ian Gillespie for being an office angel
- To Bubba Gonzales for keeping our road sign current
- To all who are giving their grocery bags to the Food Pantry

Golden Group Activities

Bus Trip-Shopping on Westheimer

Wednesday, February 7th at 8:30am

Central Market, Phoenicia Market, and Trader Joe's
 Lunch (on your own) at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen
 Cost \$3

Fat Tuesday Luncheon

February 13th at 11:30am

Monument Inn

4406 Independence Pkwy, La Porte



SAVE THE DATE:

Bus Trip to Maas Nursery

Monday, March 4th (new date)

Bus leaves church @ 9am

Sign-Up sheets in the Fellowship Hall

Text or email Lorrie for more info: 281-382-9770

landrews1124@gmail.com

CONSTITUTION– Copies of the newly adopted St. Paul's Lutheran Church Constitution are available in the church office.



Food Pantry Kick-Off

Sunday February 4th

Please drop your donation in the soup pot on your way out after the worship service on Sunday morning. All money collected will benefit St. Paul's Food Pantry. Thank you for supporting our Food Pantry.



Ashes To Go in our parking lot

Wednesday February 14th from 11am-1pm.

You can receive ashes in your car! Walk ups are welcome too.

**Ash Wednesday Service
in the Sanctuary**

with the imposition of ashes

February 14th at 7:00pm

**Midday Lenten Soup & Devotion
in the Fellowship Hall**

Wednesday's at 11:30am

Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, & 20. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to provide soup. (Soup will not be served on Ash Wednesday.)

Lenten Devotional Booklets

are available in the Narthex



Former member, Mike Probst came by for a visit. Mike grew up at St. Paul's. His father was the pastor here from 1970-1989

Blessing of 50th and Over Wedding Anniversaries

February 11th

We will bless couples who have or will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Cupcakes & punch will be served after worship.

**Gene and Anna Maria Chauviere
August 10, 1960**

**Jake and Helen Fojt
July 28, 1962**

**James and Sandra McGee
June 8, 1963**

**Floyd and Sherry Eickenhorst
September 14, 1963**

**Jake and Jan Lorfing
April 17, 1964**

**Clarke and Joyce Crizer
June 20, 1964**

**Hoya and Angie Ash
August 7, 1964**

**Jon and Glenna Pfennig
September 5, 1964**

**Don and Elaine Eschberger
January 12, 1965**

**James and Jeanie Herrington
January 28, 1967**

**Jerry and Helen Reavis
September 24, 1970**

**Stan and Sherry White
October 10, 1970**

**Eddie and Debbie Bakemeier
December 17, 1971**

**Dennis and Susie Salo
July 28, 1973**

**Boo Boo and Deana Fojt
October 5, 1974**

Food Pantry volunteers preparing for Thursday distribution



Dennis and Susie Salo are currently working at a KOA in Fredericksburg, VA. Behind them is the National Museum of United States Marine Corps in Quantico, VA.



Nathan Gunn, one of the young people on our military bulletin board, came by to meet Pastor Nancy. Nathan is a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy. Check out his picture in the Fellowship Hall. His mom, Nicole Gunn, volunteers at our Food Pantry

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS making generosity easy



Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. Direct your [Choice Dollars](#) to St. Paul's Lutheran today.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice

Call 800-847-4836.

January Memorials & Honorariums

In MEMORY of:

Ken Peting

Mary Watkins

(sister of Dorothy Johnston)

Alice Smith

(mother of Gary Smith)

Given By:

Bev Tomsic
 Anna Maria Chauviere
 Ian & Debbie Gillespie
 James & Sandra McGee
 Hoya & Angie Ash
 Clarke & Joyce Crizer
 Dave & Donna Reavis
 Jerry & Helen Reavis
 David & Lorrie Andrews
 Rosie Haas
 Susan Clanton

James & Sandra McGee

James & Sandra McGee

Designation:

General Fund
 General Fund
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General Fund



PROPERTY NEWS

If you have church keys that you are not using please turn them into the church office.

Gumbo Cook-Off Sunday, February 25th

Let's give our Chili Cook-Off a rest and try something new. A Gumbo Cook-Off! Please bring your gumbo in a crockpot by 9am. You may enter chicken/sausage gumbo or seafood gumbo. Please clearly mark your gumbo if it contains any seafood for those that have any seafood allergies. Each entry will be assigned a number. The congregation will taste all the entries then vote on their favorite. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The rice will be provided for the gumbo. If you don't plan on entering the contest consider making a dessert. There are signup sheets in the Fellowship Hall.



FROM THE TREASURER			
Needed weekly, \$4815 to cover General Fund expenses		December Monthly Activity	
General Fund Income YTD	244,415.82	25,938.57	270,354.39
General Fund Expenses YTD	(215,397.71)	(19,421.05)	(234,818.76)
	\$29,018.11	\$6,517.52	\$35,535.63

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 Baytown, TX
 Council Meeting
 January 11, 2024

Members Present: Pastor Nancy, Ian Gillespie, John Schlobohm, Kim Holle, Angie Ash, Rosie Haas, Clarke Crizer, Bev Tomsic, Donna Reavis, Becky Linsenbardt, Susan Clanton

Members Absent: Kurt Migl, Luis Estrada

The meeting was called to order by President Ian Gillespie at 6:30 PM. Pastor Nancy led the group in the opening prayer.

DECEMBER MINUTES

John Schlobohm MOVED, Beverly Tomsic seconded, to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2023, Council meeting. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Council installation - Sunday, February 4 during worship.
- TX/LA Gulf Coast Synod Assembly – Friday, May 17 – Saturday, May 18 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, The Woodlands. Need one lay person to attend with Pastor Nancy.
- Church office closed Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

- Coke room cabinets need organization/clean up/clean out supplies. This will be added to next church work day.
- Christened tug boat Michael J. Kennelly in Kemah, TX January 4.
- Lent begins February 14, Ash Wednesday, followed by five weeks of Lent, and then Holy Week begins. Easter is March 31.
- We have a number of church members and regular visitors who are having health issues. Pastor thanked the congregation for keeping those individuals connected and encouraged.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kim Holle presented the financials for the month of December, reporting that income exceeded expenses in the amount of \$6,517.52. Susan Clanton MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded, to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.
- The 2024 Budget was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance Contract

Ian Gillespie stated that Jensen Ford (proposed new insurance company) has requested documentation indicating "no claims" as of 12/6/2023. Gillespie will forward the information to Jensen Ford.

Cleaning Contract

Kim Holle requested a copy of the cleaning contract for review.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

- Cathleen Mahan and Linda Hendricks are the nominees for the open council positions.

Inreach/Outreach

- Food Pantry kick off - February 4.
- 50 and over anniversaries – February 11
- Gumbo cook off - February 25.
- Golden Group bus trip schedule –
February 7 – shopping on Westheimer Rd.;
- March 6 – Maas Nursery
- April 10 – painted churches

Church Council Retreat

Saturday, February 3rd at 8:30am
Fellowship Hall

2024 Installation of Church Council

Sunday, February 4th

Youth and Family

- Family Connect – March 17 after church, "Pretzels and Pints" .
- Spring Flea Market – March 16

Worship and Music

- Would like to consider moving midweek Advent/Lent services to morning services.

The Green Book was reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Annual Congregational Meeting – January 28, 2024

Council Retreat – February 3, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Ash, Secretary

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA
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Evangelical
 Lutheran Church
 in America

This is Christ's church.

There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Stewardship On The Go

Tithes and offerings are an important part of Christianity because, by giving, we put our love for God before our love for money. Giving also supports the church to spread the Gospel and teach the Bible. Ways to give when you are or aren't in worship:

- **Put money in the offering plate**
- **Send a check by mail**
- **Through your bank** – setup an automatic drafts weekly or monthly
- **Online Giving** using Tithely. Scan the QR Code with your smartphone's camera
- or go to your App Store and install the official ELCA app "ELCA giving tool by Tithely"



Scan to Give

SERVANT
 PRAYER SINGING
 TRANSPORTATION ALTAR GUILD
THANK YOU
 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ACOLYTE
LEADER
 SERVING OTHERS
YES TEAMWORK
 READER
GIVE
VOLUNTEER
YOU USHERING GREETING MENTORING
 WORKING TOGETHER BEING AVAILABLE
 PRAYER SHAWLS & HOSPITAL BLANKETS
ANSWERING THE CALL
 GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS
STEPPING UP
 PERSONAL CARE KITS
 DISCIPLESHIP
 FOOD PANTRY
 THANK YOU FOR
SAYING
 YES