



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

JANUARY 2024

The Prince of Peace at Christmas

In the Gospel according to Luke we hear the angels say to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to God's people on Earth." At this time of the year, perhaps our longing for peace is even more acute. We know the world isn't right.

Nevertheless, we wait for and trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

The angels proclaimed,

"Peace on Earth. Good tidings we bring."

We pray for peace in our world and in our communities.

Every week we take time during worship to greet one another with the message of peace.

We reach out, grasping hands across pews, across the aisle.

Some may walk to other areas of the sanctuary to give a message of peace to a neighbor or a visitor.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

We share the peace, the love of God, and as we do, we know that God has reached from heaven to earth and, in the Prince of Peace, is sharing God's peace with us.

In this season and all year round, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Birthdays

1—David Bengelsdorf
 4 –Elaine Lucke
 4 – Kelly Migl
 6 – Carolyn Smith
 18 – James McGee
 23 – Jaime Parker
 24 – Tori Rein
 24 – Lori Viereck
 24 – Laney Cherry
 25—Emilia Landry
 28 - Megan Hess
 29– Hudson Migl
 29 – Emily Viereck
 30 – Robyn Soileau

Baptismal Anniversaries

1 –Anna Maria Chauviere
 1–Susan Clanton
 1–Floyd Eickenhorst
 1–Sherry Eickenhorst
 1–Kim Holle
 1 –Elaine Lucke
 1–James McGee
 1 –Natalie Seymour
 8–Tanner Carter
 10–Russell Holle
 10–Garrett Reavis
 10–Justin Reavis
 10–Dalton Rein
 11–Jaime Parker

11–Peyton Parker
 12—Caroline Lucke
 17 - Andrew Rouyer
 21–Michelle Johnston
 23–Kelly Migl
 24–Carly Moreno
 26 - Debbie Bakemeier
 31–Hoya Ash

Wedding Anniversaries

12 - Don & Elaine Eschberger
 24—Birdie Torberson & Luis Estrada
 25 – Kurt & Kelly Migl
 28—Jim & Jeanie Herrington



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 all who volunteered for the Breakfast with Santa event! The call for help went out and you guys responded. Thank you!
- To all who provided snacks for our Midweek Advent Services
- To Bev Tomsic, Linda Hendricks, and Erwin Hendricks for picking up trash at the Sterling Library
- Thanks to all who participated in the ELCA Good Gifts. Total giving was \$720.00. We purchased 120 chicks and 12 goats!

Church Offices Closed

January 15, 2024

**FIRST SUNDAY
 CONFIRMATION
 CLASS**

(Teaching of the Christian faith for Lutherans)

For Baptized 5th Grade & Up
 Sunday, January 7th
 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
 (in the parlor)

**Golden Group Activities
 Monthly Luncheon**

Toasted Yolk
13001 I-10 East Mont Belvieu
Tuesday, January 16th
@ 11:30am

Signup sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Text or email Lorrie for more info: 281-382-9770
landrews1124@gmail.com



**Thank You
 St. Paul's**

Pastor Nancy, Robin, and Jada would like to thank the congregation for the Love Offering.

Your generosity and love was overwhelming and much appreciated.

KING CAKE

WITH BABY JESUS HIDDEN INSIDE
Sunday January 7th!

A Fellowship Hall Epiphany tradition. After worship everyone come and eat a slice of King Cake and find the baby Jesus! Thank you to Luis Estrada for providing the King Cake.



Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28th

The Annual Report will be ready for you to read on Sunday, January 14th. Copies will be available in the Narthex or online on our [website](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Food Pantry Kick-Off Sunday February 4th

Please drop your donation in the offering plate as you come into the Narthex on Sunday morning, or mail your donation, or use [Tithely](#) online giving to make your donation. Please do not donate any loose change. All money collected will benefit St. Paul's Food Pantry. Thank you so much for supporting our Food Pantry.



50th + Wedding Anniversaries

Sunday, February 11th. We will bless couples who have or will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. There will be cupcakes and punch after worship.

Ash Wednesday February 14th

Gumbo Cook-Off

Sunday, February 25th. More info to come.

Flea Market Saturday, March 16th

Thank you to Michelle Johnston and her sisters, who live in Iowa, for making the beautiful prayer blankets.

They will be given to Baytown Methodist Hospital. And thank you to all the knitters and crocheters who make the beautiful shawls and blankets. This ministry continues because of you!



Adopt A Spot

Thank you to Bev Tomsic, and Linda and Erwin Hendricks for performing our quarterly clean-up at the Sterling Library. It was a big job this time! The annual Baytown Christmas Parade was happening the same day. And its starting point was the Sterling Library. Many bags of trash were collected by our crew. Thank you very much for your dedication to this ministry.



The Golden Group Christmas Lunch was wonderful. Thanks to all who brought a dish to share!



The handbell Choir played Christmas songs for the residents at the Lodge of Pine Creek



Jubilee Choir singing Silent Night/Night of Silence



Staff receiving the Love Offering from the congregation



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Luna Moreno was honored to be the baby Jesus Bearer



Luna Moreno & Lyle Prague enjoying the candlelight

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 tithe.ly"



FROM THE TREASURER			
Needed weekly, \$4815 to cover General Fund expenses		November Monthly Activity	
General Fund Income YTD	231,957.62	12,458.20	244,415.82
General Fund Expenses YTD	(195,192.87)	(20,204.84)	(215,397.71)
	36,764.75	(7,746.64)	29,018.11

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baytown, TX
 Council Minutes
 December 14, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order by President Ian Gillespie at 6:31 PM. Pastor Nancy led the group in the opening prayer.

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MINUTES

John Schlobohm MOVED, Kim Holle seconded, to approve the Minutes of the November 9, 2023, Council meeting with one clerical correction. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Reminded Council of Advent services.
- On Christmas Eve (Sunday) there will only be one service (candlelight) at 6:00 PM.
- New Year's Eve service will be at 10:30 AM. Service of the Word/Hymn sing. Pastor Nancy will be away.
- Delivered 22 throw blankets to the Baytown Animal Shelter (overage from Breakfast with Santa).
- Scarlett Rein received her first Bible on December 3, 2023.
- Renewed Robin Dunn's contract of employment on November 11, 2023 –November 20, 2023. (copy filed in Minutes.)
- Confirmation classes continue the first Sunday of every month.
- Recognized office angels Ben Vircant, Ian Gillespie, Debbie Gillespie, Cathleen Mahan, and Sheila Ludwigs.
- Gulf Coast Synod has raised money to pay for internships for our synod. Deadline to apply is January 8. Congregation usually pays for part of internship. Interns would be from one of the ELCA seminaries. After discussion, Council agreed that due to our financial situation, St. Paul's would not be interested in participating in the internship program at this time. Rosie Haas MOVED, John Schlobohm seconded to pass on the internship opportunity. Motion carried with Pastor Nancy voting no.
- Church offices will be closed Monday, December 25, 2023– January 1, 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kim Holle presented the financials for the month of November, reporting that expenses exceeded income in the amount of \$7,746.64. John Schlobohm MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded, to approve the report as presented. Motion carried. Congregation is encouraged to remember the importance of giving even when they're not in attendance.
- Kim reviewed the 2024 Budget, which is \$5,000 less than the 2023 budget. It will be presented at the 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting. John Schlobohm MOVED, Rosie Haas seconded, to approve the forecasted 2024 budget as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS**Insurance Contract**

Ian Gillespie presented information regarding St. Paul's insurance and proposed we utilize the company of Jensen Ford for our insurance coverage at a cost of \$39,986 plus workman's comp of \$530 for a total of \$40, 516. Kim Holle MOVED, John Schlobohm seconded, to engage Jensen Ford as our insurance provider beginning January 1, 2024. Motion carried.

Review of Director of Music Ministries Contract

On November 16, 2023, Council was contacted via email with information regarding the permanent job offer to Robin Dunn as Director of Music Ministries of an annual salary of \$19,200, including two Sundays of paid vacation, beginning January, 2024. Ms. Dunn countered and accepted the amount of \$10,000 annually, including the two Sundays of paid vacation beginning January, 2024. Ms. Dunn's contract was signed on November 20, 2023.

Assembly of God Contract

Pastor, Ian Gillespie, and Kim Holle met with Assembly of God pastors and one lay person to discuss and complete signing of the rental agreement. The Assembly of God representatives requested additional hours but were declined due to scheduling conflicts with St. Paul's activities. The contract was signed for six months.

NEW BUSINESS**Committee Reports****Property**

- Kitchen plumbing issue repaired - \$400
- Outside lighting repairs completed.

Inreach/Outreach

- Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, December 2
- Golden Group bus trip schedule – February 7 – shopping on Westheimer Rd.; March 6 – Maas Nursery; April 10 – painted churches
- Golden Group lunch – December 19 -pot luck at St. Paul's (meat will be provided)
- Food Pantry Kick Off –February 4
- 50 and over anniversaries – February 11
- Gumbo Cook Off – February 11

Youth and Family

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

The Green Book was reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Annual Congregational Meeting – January 28, 2024

Annual Reports due by January 7, 2024.

Council Retreat – February 3, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Ash, Secretary



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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.



Breakfast with Santa
 2023