



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

June 2023

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ,

Attending this year's Texas/Louisiana Synod Assembly, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in the Woodlands, Texas, along with Debbie and Ian Gillespie, was a wonderful experience in connecting with our larger network of *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* congregations in this region. Our synod has 106 congregations in the Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. Geographically they range from the west (Schulenburg, Texas) to the east (Slidell, Louisiana), to the north (Lufkin, Texas), and to the south (Lake Jackson, Texas). Our synod has 26,645 members, 92 active pastors and 7 active deacons. We have 4 campus ministries: LSU, Houston Ministries (UH, TSU), Rice, and Brazos Valley (Texas A&M and Blinn).



At the Assembly, we were in worship, fellowship, doing the business of the synod, visiting booths to get new information, and listening to speakers and mission moments. Reports came in from our Companion Synods in Peru and Central African Republic. Pastor Joseph Ngoe, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic expressed his gratitude to our synod for support and encouraged our synod with prayer for "the wisdom to make good decisions for the advancement of the mission through the world and also especially in the Central African Republic." In Peru, their pastor Adita Torres died from COVID. They need a sister/brother congregation for prayer and accompaniment, and financial support. We also heard from Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest and the acknowledgement of Lizbeth Johnson for her tremendous legacy gift planning efforts in our synod (more legacy gifts through Lizbeth than anywhere else in the ELCA). Our outgoing Synod Attorney, Kathy Patrick was recognized for her 15 years of service. Our new Synod Attorney, Aaron Guerro, was welcomed.

Results of resolutions and elections include:

Proposed By Law Change: Lutherhill Ministries Board Membership – (Passed).

From: "All Members of the Board of Directors shall be members in good standing of a Congregation or Authorized Worshiping Community of the Synod."

To: "All members of the Board of Directors shall believe in the mission of Lutherhill and be committed to the work of furthering its mission. To honor our strong Lutheran roots and deep connection to the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the majority of board shall be members in good standing of a Congregation or Authorized Worshiping Community of the Synod."

Nominee for Synod Council, 1 year term, Youth Member, Female or Male: (Elected)

Calea Whirtley (incumbent), High School Student, Living Word, Katy, Texas.

2024 Compensation Guidelines for the Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod: (Passed)

Pay and benefit guidelines raised for pastors, deacons, and supply pastors.

2024-2025 Operating Budget (Feb. 1, 2024- Jan. 31, 2025): (Passed)

\$1,389,000 (an increase of \$1,000 over the 2023-24 budget. (95% of synod revenue is from congregations. 48% of synod budget is for ELCA benevolence and mission support.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



JUNE

Birthdays

2 – Drew Bruner
 2 – Reneé Simons
 8 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 9 – Kyle Stevens
 10 – Karen Guthmiller
 10 – Reagan Perry
 11 – Helen Fojt
 11 – Donna Reavis
 15 – Gretchen Bruner
 17 – Dave Reavis
 20 - Brooks Bruner
 20 – Kim Holle
 24 – Susan Clanton
 24 - Melody Rein
 26 – Taylar Carter
 26 – Justin Stevens
 28 – Glenna Pfennig

Baptismal Anniversaries

1 – Sherry White
 11 – Michelle Barnes
 25 – Carly Baldwin
 27 – Millie Baxter
 28 – Jon Pfennig
 30 – Blake Simons

Wedding Anniversaries

6- Dalton & Tori Rein
 8 – James & Sandra McGee
 9—Mike & Kristen Stephens
 9 – Matt & Robyn Soileau
 11 –Steve & Becky Rouyer
 12 --Monty & Michelle Barnes
 17—Reagan & Sylvia Perry
 20—Clarke & Joyce Crizer
 24 – John & Mary Schlobohm
 27—Alex & Dorian Edwards
 29 - Darren & Natalie Seymour
 29 – Ben & Elaine Vircant

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 our Food Pantry volunteers for all their hard work. We couldn't do it without you!
- To the knitters and crocheters for the prayer shawls & hospital blankets
- To Deana Fojt for letting us borrow her beautiful table decorations for our 80th Anniversary luncheon
- To Thrivent Financial for approving several Thrivent Action Team gift cards which were used for the 80th Anniv.
- To Keith Weber and Ting Ke for the beautiful piano music on Sunday mornings.
- To David Bengelsdorf and Ian Gillespie for the use of their pickup trucks when we picked up 75 mail totes of canned goods from the Stamp Out Hunger food drive.
- To Jackson and Logan Crizer for their monetary donation to the Food Pantry
- To Luis Estrada, Birdie Torberson, and Mike Bueno for stripping and waxing the floors in the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen. They look fabulous!





St. Paul's Lutheran Church
is celebrating 80 years of
ministry in our community
and beyond!

Join us

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Worship at 10:30 followed by a celebratory luncheon. Bishop Michael Rinehart will be our guest preacher. There will be a slide show in the Fellowship Hall.



Where: Pool Party @ Susan Clanton's Home
When: Saturday, June 3 from 11am-2pm
RSVP to Donna Reavis 936-336-0370.

All middle school and high school youth are invited to a pool party **at Susan Clanton's house**. We will be kicking off summer and saying farewell to Andrew from Good Shepherd as he is finishing his internship. Please RSVP to Donna so we can order enough pizza and save you an awesome pool float.

Healing Service with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. **Sunday, June 25th**



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BAYTOWN, TX ENDOWMENT FUND

Est. MARCH 9, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council established the Endowment Fund with the purpose of creating a fund that would grow with legacy gifts from the congregation, donations, and memorials over future years.

The Endowment Fund provides a quarterly distribution from the general investment earnings of the ELCA Foundation's Ministry Growth Fund. With this generous start and the committed gifts from several faithful families, St. Paul's leadership encourages all members to consider a legacy gift as part of their estate/will planning.

When a legacy gift goes to the congregation at the time of a member's passing, the church becomes a stronger entity. You are invited to explore the possibility of a legacy gift to the church through Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. This service specializes in estate planning for members who desire to leave a legacy gift which will benefit the Endowment Fund and the future of the church to the glory of God and benefit of all.

There is a display in the Narthex with more information.

Food Pantry News

The pantry is feeding approximately 140 families weekly. The Houston Food Bank is struggling to keep up with the demand for protein. Donating cans of tuna to our Food Pantry would be greatly appreciated. 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!



Flowers for Mother's Day



Graduation Sunday, May 21, 2023 we honored our High School graduates Lauren Perry, Kirsten Mahan, Logan Crizer, Jackson Crizer not pictured: Amy Andrews who graduated from college

May Memorials & Honorariums

In HONOR of:
Rick Falconi

Given By:
Dave & Donna Reavis
David & Lorrie Andrews

Designation:
General Fund
General Fund

In MEMORY of:
Jerry Webster

Kris Torberson

Food Pantry



Michelle Johnston



Sherry & Stan White



Helen Fojt, Sharon Naiser, Ronnie Naiser



Birdier Torberson
Luis Estrada



Joyce & Clarke Crizer



Mike Bueno



Nicole Gunn & Deana Fojt



David Bengelsdorf



Kim Holle & Jada Hylton



Bonnie Kilburn



David & Lorrie Adnrews



Monty & Michelle Barnes



Happy Birthday to Michelle

**Golden Group Luncheon at 888 Chinese.
We had a great turnout!**

Golden Group Activities

Monthly Luncheon

Tuesday, June 20th at 11:30am
at **Gringo's Mexican Restaurant, La Porte**
There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall
Text or email Lorrie for more info:
281-382-9770 landrews1124@gmail.com

FROM THE TREASURER		April	
		Monthly Activity	
General Fund Income YTD	102,159.81	22,446.79	124,606.60
General Fund Expenses YTD	(57,853.09)	(21,232.77)	(79,085.86)
Needed weekly, \$4815 to cover General Fund Expenses.	44,306.72	1,214.02	45,520.74

CONTINUATION OF PASTOR NANCY'S ARTICLE

Proposal for Synod to be Reconciling in Christ with welcome statement: (Passed)

We, the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, honor the diverse Body of Christ and echo God's goodness and care in our life together. We believe the church is to reflect the expansive beauty of the region we are called to serve. Therefore, in our leadership, policies, practices, and culture we are committed to celebrating and uplifting people in sacred variety.

As a collective, we embrace and uplift the beloved children of God of varying ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, identity and expression, relationship status, age, physical and neurological diversity, geography, citizenship, immigration status, socio-economic status, and experiences of addiction or incarceration.

We dedicate ourselves and our resources to the healing of our history where there has been harm, and the ongoing work of reconciliation including justice for the LGBTQIA community and the pursuit of racial equity. There is a wideness in God's mercy and who we are created to be.

Synod Assembly Location Resolution: (Did not pass)

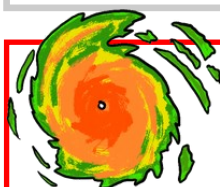
That the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod, urge the Synod Council in consultation with Synod Staff, and Deans to develop and implement a strategy to intentionally and systematically rotate the location and hosting responsibilities of the Synod Assembly throughout our Synod, including locations in Texas and Louisiana.

Youth & Family Ministry Resolution: (passed)

That the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod, gathered in Assembly, urge the Synod Staff to create a Synod Youth Ministry Team to discuss and report proposals to the gathered Synod Assembly in 2024. This Team should include representatives from across the geographic regions of our Synod and the membership should include High School Youth leaders in addition to adult leaders. The report shall include methods to develop family and youth leadership opportunities and ways in which the synod may support congregations implementing successful you and family leadership ministries.

There was so much more to take in at the Synod Assembly of how God is working through the Church! Bishop Mike Rinehart (our synod Bishop) said in his report: "Every church is a new church-plant post COVID! Let's be a witness of hope."

With thankfulness and blessings to you all,



HURRICANE SEASON is here!
Be Prepared! Learn How to
be a 72 hour Lutheran.
www.stpaulsbaytown.org



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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baytown, TX — Council Meeting — May 11, 2023

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

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

Faith Story Beverly Tomsic presented her faith story.

APRIL COUNCIL MINUTES John Schlobohm MOVED, Beverly Tomsic seconded to approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2023 Council meeting. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Council discussed the designation wording on the giving envelopes located in the pews. Pastor will discuss editing with Kim Holle.
- Interim coverage of Organist/pianist will be: May 14 – Ting Ke / May 21, 28 and June 4, 11, 18 & 25 - Keith Weber
- Jada will be out of the office from June 12 -25. Office angels are being scheduled.
- Pastor Nancy will be out of the office from June 5-11. Rev. Katharine Redpath will be the supply pastor.
- There will be a blessing for mothers on Mother's Day, and carnations will be given to mothers at the end of the service.
- Approximately 146 invitations have been mailed for St. Paul's 80th Anniversary celebration.
- The Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Assembly will be held Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20. Ian and Debbie Gillespie and Pastor Nancy will attend.
- First Sunday Zoomers for high schoolers is finished for the year. Regular attendees Lauren Perry, Logan Crizer and Jackson Crizer will graduate this month.
- Assembly of God – We have a 6 month rental contract with the Assembly of God from April 23, 2023 – October 23, 2023 for \$600 per month for use of St. Paul's fellowship hall/kitchen and nursery for:
Tuesdays – 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Thursdays – 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Sundays – 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

TREASURER'S REPORT Because Kim Holle was unable to attend the meeting, there was no treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS**Review of St Paul's Constitution Updates**

- Pastor noted a clerical error to the Constitution in section c8.05 where "Luthern" will be corrected to Lutheran. Donna MOVED, Clarke seconded, to approve the updates which were presented at the April Council meeting. Motion carried.

Director of Music Ministries

- Susan was also unable to attend the meeting, however, it was reported that the Worship and Music Committee is working on the job description for the organist/pianist.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Green Book timeline for June through August was reviewed.

Committee Reports**Property**

- Kurt reported that plans are being made to strip and wax the fellowship and kitchen floors.
- Working on lighting issues in the conference room.
- will schedule fire and health department inspections.

Inreach/Outreach

- Retirement milestone in June
- St. Paul's Food Pantry will participate in Stamp Out Hunger on May 15.
- Golden Group Lunch May 16 at 888 Chinese Restaurant.
- Golden Group bus trip May 31 – Arbor Gate in Tomball
- Plans continue for St. Paul's 80th Anniversary celebration June 4.

Worship and Music

- Graduation Sunday will be May 21. There are 5 high school and college graduates. Cake and punch will be served after church.
- Wednesday evening Lenten services were poorly attended. New ideas are being considered.
- Good feedback from Easter Sunday worship.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted, Angie Ash, Secretary

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Juneteenth Commemoration

Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the good news on June 19, 1865.

People of faith have long known the importance of recalling and learning from history. Pray for the courage to hear and tell the tragic and discomfoting history of American slavery and to call out the continuing threat of racism and injustice; ask the Spirit to help us learn from the past and present and to strive for humility, understanding, respect, justice and unity.

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE "Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit." Amen.

