



St. Paul's Lutheran

# THE EPISTLE

March 2023

Hello St. Paul's and friends of the Church,

Tap, tap, tap, was the sound at my back door this morning as I ate breakfast. It was a red bird tapping on the glass of the door with his little beak! Then he flew away, but came back again with the same tap, tap, tap on my door. Usually, I don't see redbirds near my home, but this was an exception. Maybe he was looking for bugs or looking at his reflection in the glass, or maybe it was the case of the Lord working in mysterious ways. The red bird got my attention as he hovered with wings flapping in mid-air, and his strong beak tapping, a few feet from me. The Church season of Lent also gets our attention, waking us up to our faith journey with Jesus and our human condition, leading us remember his Passion and Resurrection.

Our 40-day Lenten journey began on Ash Wednesday with ashes smeared on our foreheads and a reminder of our mortality, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." We are mortal and face our sins, but there is eternal hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of the resurrection for all who believe in Him.

Observances of Lent may include giving up certain foods, drinks, or even some habit you want to leave behind, as well as devoting time to nurture our spiritual life through prayer, Bible reading, worship, and alms/charitable giving.

During Lenten worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and in our Wednesday evening Lenten services at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we put the "alleluias" on hold. When Easter arrives, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with bright hymns of the Lord's victory over sin and death!

By grace through faith,

Pastor Nancy Simpson





### Birthdays

3 - David Andrews  
 4—Samantha Forcier  
 11 - Becky Linsenbardt  
 11—Charissa Moffett  
 12 - Andrew Rouyer  
 13 - Kent Rein  
 18 - Rená Chavers  
 21 - Jon Pfennig  
 23 - Natalie Seymour  
 27 - Taylor Christopherson  
 29 - David Hylton  
 30—Joyce Crizer  
 31 - Emily Lowry

### Baptismal Anniversaries

1 - Helen Fojt  
 1 - Rileigh Lowry  
 1 - Jace Seymour  
 3 - Angie Ash  
 3—Cathleen Mahan  
 3—Kirsten Mahan  
 14—Addison Forcier  
 24 - Logan Hylton  
 25 - Jake Lorfing  
 25 - Carolyn Smith  
 26 - Don Eschberger  
 29 - Becky Linsenbardt  
 30- Jennifer Carter  
 31- Amy Andrews

### Wedding Anniversaries

17 - Arlen & Kim Holle

### In Sympathy

Regina Diane Rein  
 Nov. 16, 1970—Feb. 25, 2023

### Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sun. March 12th. Set your clocks  
 1 hour ahead.



### Thank You

- Thank you to Ian Gillespie, Hoya Ash, Kurt and Kelly Migl, Darren and Natalie Seymour, and Daucy Crizer for the lawn maintenance
- To Rosie Haas for keeping our flower beds looking great
- 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 all who donated to the Food Pantry Kick-Off on Feb. 5th. We raised \$1105.00 with your help! Thank you!!!

### 1ST SUNDAY ZOOMERS

Teenagers, let's Zoom with Jada Hylton and Pastor Nancy on the first Sunday of every month at 12:30pm. You will get a Zoom invitation in your email. We hope to see you there on **March 5th**.



### St. Patrick's Day Floats

The youth will be making and serving St. Patrick's Day floats on Sunday **March 19th**.

They will collect a free will offering for the General Fund.



### Golden Group Activities

#### Monthly Luncheon

**Craft 96 Draught House & Kitchen**  
**March 14th at 11:30am**  
 9209 Eagle Dr #600, Mont Belvieu

#### Bus Trip

**Maas Nursery & T-Bone Tom's**  
**Wed. March 22** cost: \$3  
 Bus leaves church at 8am  
 Lunch on your own



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

[landrews1124@gmail.com](mailto:landrews1124@gmail.com)

### Adopt-A-Spot

**Sat. March 25th**

8am

Meet at the Sterling Library in Baytown.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

For more info:  
 Bev Tomsic  
 979.299.9168



## Lenten Soup Suppers

### Wednesday's at 6pm

**March 1, 8, 15, 22.** There will be sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to provide soup.

## Midweek Lenten Service

### The Joy of Salvation

**Wednesdays March 1, 8, 15, 22** at 7pm held in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for singing and devotion.

## Palm Sunday April 2nd

Meet at the Bell Tower to begin worship at 10:30am. We will wave our palm fronds as we go in to the Sanctuary.



## Maundy Thursday Service

**Thursday April 6th 7:00 p.m.** which will include the stripping of the Altar.

## Good Friday Service

**Friday, April 7th at 7:00pm.**

## Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday Service

**April 9th at 10:30a.m.**



**Ordering Easter Lilies** Purchasing a lily is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one on Easter Sunday. The flowers are yours to take home following the service. The cost is \$10 each. Order forms will be available in the Fellowship Hall. Please complete the order form along with your payment (marked: Easter Lilies) and place it in the offering plate. Your order will be processed on a first come first served basis.



## Season Of Hope

### Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Our church is partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bridge City, TX in collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. These kits are given out by LWR where most needed around the world along with quilts that are hand-made by Lutheran churches.

#### Collecting items now!

#### The kits will be blessed on Palm Sunday

Let us join together in self-giving for others as Christ would have us to do. On our way to Easter, we are blessed to be a blessing!

#### List of items needed:

- Bars of soap (4-6 oz, any brand)
- Bath Towels (light-weight 52"x27" dark colors recommended)
- Toothbrushes (adult size, original packaging)
- Metal Nail clippers
- Combs



There is a table set-up for you to drop off your donated items.



## First Communion Classes

**Thursdays March 23rd and 30th from**

**5-6pm** for youth (5<sup>th</sup> graders & older) and adults who have not had First Communion instruction. Classes will be held in the Parlor with Pastor Nancy.

Participants will receive their First Communion on Easter Sunday.

## 1st Bible & 2nd Grade Bible Milestone Sunday March 26th

We will present Alaina Olivares and Gwen Blakey with Bibles to mark the beginning of their faith journey.



**8TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY  
FLEA MARKET  
& BBQ SALE  
SAT. MARCH 18TH  
9AM - 2PM**

All proceeds will benefit the General Fund. Spots are sold on a first come, first served basis.

**Here are some ways you can help:**

- Sign up to have a spot to sell your own items- a **17'x17' spot is \$25.**
- donate items to the church's spot (bring morning of the sale)
- donate food items to help with the BBQ. Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall
- sell BBQ plates in the kitchen (sandwich chips & a drink) for \$10.
- help setup and take down tables
- volunteer to work the church's spot at the flea market

Contact Donna Reavis for more information

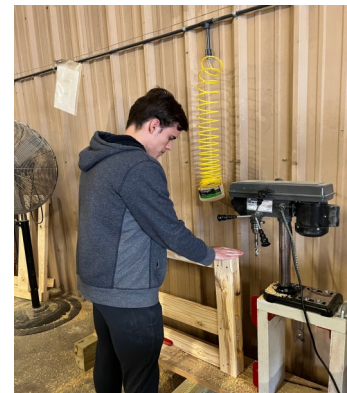
[reavis5@hotmail.com](mailto:reavis5@hotmail.com)

936-336-0370



Junior high and High school youth! Join us with our friends from Good Shepherd Lutheran for some fun!

Where: Living Word Lutheran Church, Katy  
When: Sunday, March 19th from 2pm-6pm  
RSVP to Donna Reavis 936-336-0370.



In February the Youth Connect group went to Sleep in Heavenly Peace in Beaumont, and made bunk beds for children in need of a safe and comfortable place to sleep.



Valentine Treats after worship!  
Donna Reavis, Alaine Olivares, and  
Luna Moreno



Ashes to Go!



Pastor put ashes on  
some of the staff at  
Rehab on Main Street



**2023 CHILI COOK OFF WINNERS**

- 1st Place Jennifer Crizer
- 2nd Place John Schlobohm
- 3rd Place Luis Estrada



Pastor Nancy attended the Coastal Bay Confer-  
ence at New Life Lutheran Church in Pearland



**50+ Wedding Anniversary Blessing** held February 12, 2023  
Don Eschberger, Clarke and Joyce Crizer, Elaine Eschberger, Hoya and  
Angie Ash, James and Jeanie Herrington, Jerry and Helen Reavis, and  
Sandra and James McGee



Thank you Bubba for  
keeping our church sign  
current!

*Gracious God, today and always, work through me to show  
others your love and care. Amen.*

## 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](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice)

Call 800-847-4836.

## February Memorials & Honorariums

### In Memory of:

Jerry Wasson (father of Jada Hylton)

DJ Moore (grandmother of Kim Holle)

Regina Rein

### Given By:

Ian & Debbie Gillespie

Ian & Debbie Gillespie

Jerry & Helen Reavis

Dave & Donna Reavis

Becky Linsenbardt

James & Sandra McGee

David & Lorrie Andrews

Jake & Helen Fojt

### Designation:

General Fund

General Fund

General Fund

General Fund

General Fund

General Fund

General Fund

General Fund

**Titheley Online Giving** Scan the QR Code with your smartphone's camera to give online. Or go to: [www.stpaulsbaytown.org](http://www.stpaulsbaytown.org) Click on the "Give" link to create an account. Now you can give anywhere from any tablet or computer.



## Treasurer's Report From the Treasurer



The 2023 budget is \$250,344. It takes \$20,862 a month to cover expenses (\$4815 per week). Please continue your faithful giving.

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes 2/4/2023 – Council Retreat

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 by Ian Gillespie. Ian opened with prayer and we enjoyed a nice breakfast.

A motion was made by Susan Clanton and seconded by Beverly Tomsic, to approve the minutes from the 1/12/23 meeting. The minutes were approved by majority vote.

Ian led a review of the committee reports in the Annual report.

- Youth and Family – no updates
- Worship and Music – no updates
- Altar Guild – a question was raised about training for home communion. Pastor does the training. We currently have 2 people serving as Eucharistic Ministers. They are currently preparing home communion kits as needed. We decided to begin again, the practice of having Altar Guild prepare the communion kits and have a blessing on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.
- Inreach/Outreach – Next Adopt- A -Spot will be early March. Suggested dates were March 4<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>.

Revision of the constitution will be rescheduled for a future meeting. Ian, Pastor Nancy and Susan will meet Feb. 15, at 10:30 to finalize all revisions and prepare for review with council.

### Interpretation of Budget

- Kim distributed copies of the revised Treasurer's Report for 2022 Calendar Year and January 2023 Monthly Report
- Capital Improvement includes any property related items over \$1500. Any item less than \$1500 is from General Fund.
- Approved 2023 Budget is \$250,344 (\$20,862/month or \$4,814/week). This is the amount needed in our giving.
- East Wing Repairs Fund (\$9090.25) was moved to Capital Improvement/Major Repairs Reserve.
- The following funds, totaling \$44,345.37 were moved to General Fund.
  - Youth \$5,000.00
  - Education \$1,345.37
  - Food Pantry \$1,000.00
  - General Pass Thru \$37,000.00
- There was discussion about whether we need itemized expenses in the Monthly Expense Summary. Currently a report of these items is not provided, but can be created if needed.
- ELCA Benevolence is 2% of what went into General Fund.
- To be published weekly in the bulletin is the prior week's offering vs. the needed offering.
- A motion was made by Clarke and seconded by Ian, to approve the January Fund Report. Council voted to approve.

Lizbeth Johnson, ELCA Gift Planner presented information on stewardship, short and long term. She explained how an endowment fund works and the benefits that could be offered. She also made suggestions for how we could encourage congregation members to consider gifting in this manner.

Lunch and meeting adjourned at 12:10.  
Minutes recorded by Susan Clanton.



Installation of the 2023 Church Council 2/5/23

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

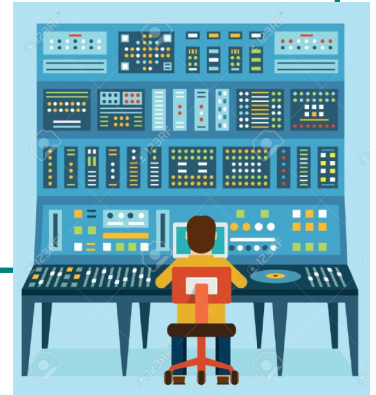


Evangelical  
 Lutheran Church  
 in America

## We need more sound system volunteers

Contact the church office if you  
 would like to be  
 trained. It's easy!

Faith comes by  
 hearing!



## St. Paul's Lutheran Church has a long history with

**Texas Lutheran University**, especially with regard to scholarships. At the recent TLU scholarship luncheon in Seguin, a new scholarship was given to honor Helen and the late Charles Probst, former St. Paul's minister.

Four other St. Paul's related scholarships were awarded previously from Pastor Nancy and Gregg Simpson, Glenna and Jon Pfennig, Anna and David Stock and Lorraine and Richard Laut.



The Probst family and the Pfennigs are pictured at TLU:

Joining Helen Probst, seated, are left to right, Rusty Brockman, Glenna Pfennig, M'Liss Brockman, Mark Probst, Marcy Smith Probst, Mike Probst and Jon Pfennig.