



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

MARCH 2024

Easter Greetings in Christ,

Every time we come together to worship, it is a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! What looks like the end of hope on Good Friday when Jesus was crucified, turns into a miracle 3 days later when Jesus is resurrected to life! The love of Christ and his grace in our lives cannot be underestimated. It has no limit and is forever a blessing to us. Eternal life is a gift to people of faith! Live by faith in Christ and you will be forgiving people you couldn't face before; you will serve as if you are serving Christ himself; you will find that praying is not wasted time but essential and life-giving.

On Easter Sunday, together we will celebrate the miracle of the Risen Christ and our new life and forgiveness in Him. We will hear the good news from the Bible and share in the Lord's Supper. It will be beautiful in the sanctuary. There will be white lilies surrounding the altar, the giant butterfly overhead, fresh flowers will be brought to church and placed in the wire cross by worshippers, and the special candle in the church known as the paschal or resurrection candle will be lit.

Jesus gathers us together as our friend and Savior, blessing us and leading us as his Church. Jesus says to us in Matthew 18:20 -

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Let our hearts be full of hope and joy!

Onward by faith,

Nancy

Pastor Nancy





Birthdays

3 - David Andrews
 11 - Becky Linsenbardt
 11—Charissa Moffett
 13 - Kent Rein
 21 - Jon Pfennig
 23 - Natalie Seymour
 25— Jeff Ganske
 29 - David Hylton
 30—Joyce Crizer

Baptismal Anniversaries

1 - Helen Fojt
 1 - Jace Seymour
 3 - Angie Ash
 3—Cathleen Mahan
 3—Kirsten Ellis
 25 - Jake Lorfing
 25 - Carolyn Smith
 26 - Don Eschberger
 29 - Becky Linsenbardt
 30- Jennifer Carter
 31- Amy Andrews

Wedding Anniversaries

17 - Arlen & Kim Holle

Church Offices Closed

Monday, April 1st

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday,
 March 10th



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 taking Holy Communion to our shut-ins and hospitalized church members
- David Andrews for taking pictures of our special events
- Luis Estrada for cleaning the ice machine
- Luis Estrada, Birdie Torberson, & Albert Estrada for waxing the floors in the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen
- To Bubba Gonzales for keeping our church sign current
- To Christy Griggs at Baytown First Nazarene Church for working with St. Paul's and the Youth of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to organize food donations and delivery to the residents of Birdsong Apartments while their elevator was being repaired
- To Stan and Sherry White for updating our Food Pantry sign on our gate
- To Cat Mahan and Ian Gillespie for being Office Angels in February

Golden Group Activities

Bus Trip: Maas Nursery

Monday, March 4th

Bus leaves church @ 9am- lunch on your own at T Bone Tom's

Monthly Luncheon: Carla's Snak Shak

Tuesday, March 19th @ 11:30am

323 S Main St, Highlands

Sign-Up sheets in the Fellowship Hall

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

SAVE THE DATE- 4/10 Bus Trip to Painted Churches

FIRST SUNDAY CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, March 3rd- 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
 (in the parlor)



Ordering Easter Lilies

Purchasing a lily is a wonderful way to remember/ honor/ celebrate a loved one on Easter Sunday. The flowers are yours to take home following the service. The cost is \$11 each. Order forms are available in the Narthex. 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.



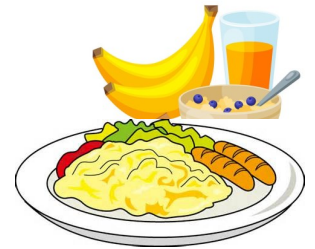
Midday Lenten Soup & Devotion Wednesday's at 11:30am March 6, 13, & 20. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to provide soup.



Palm Sunday March 24th 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 March 28th at 7:00 p.m. which will include the stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday Service March 29th at 7:00pm. Remembering the Last Words of Jesus and his crucifixion.



Easter Victory Breakfast—potluck style. If you would like to join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday, bring your favorite dish and join us at 9am. Scrambled eggs and beverages will be provided.

Easter Egg Hunt will be at 9am on Sunday. Bring your children and grandchildren to hunt Easter eggs. Candy donations are needed no later than March 24th and can be dropped off in the office. No chocolate please.

Flower Cross all are invited to bring fresh flowers to adorn the flower cross that will be setup at the front of the Sanctuary on Easter morning.

Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday Service March 31st at 10:30a.m. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!



9TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

Saturday March 16th 9:00-2:00

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

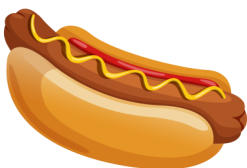
Here are some ways you can help:

- 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 that will be sold during the event. Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall
- volunteer in the kitchen selling food items: hotdogs, nachos, and Frito pie with chips, drink, and dessert for \$8.
- 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

936-336-0370



Michelle Johnston receives her Ashes to Go

CHURCH WORKDAY

Saturday March 9th at 8am

Cleaning the Bell Tower area AND many other tasks. Talk with Kurt Migl for more info. kurtmigl@yahoo.com



Pretzels & Pints

Sunday, March 17th

Join us for a soft pretzel and a pint of green sherbet floats after church in the fellowship hall. A Free will donation will be collected for the general fund.



Adopt—A—Spot

Saturday, March 23rd at 8am

Please meet outside at the Sterling Library Baytown, to pick up trash. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



Gumbo Cook-Off Winners

1st Place: Cherly Boehme

2nd Place: Carolyn Smith

3rd Place: Kurt Migl

Thank you to those that brought gumbo, desserts, and side dishes. And to all who tasted and voted. What a delicious event!



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Food Pantry Kick-Off. We raised \$622.00!



The Mormon Youth loaded their car with food donated by our food pantry and drove to the Birdsong Apartments. After arriving, they carried the 80 bags of food up to the 2nd and 3rd floor apartments and delivered them to residents who were unable to navigate the stairs during the delayed elevator repair.



Thank you to all of the Food Pantry volunteers. This ministry could not happen without you!

February Memorials & Honorariums

In MEMORY of:	Given By:	Designation:
Ken Peting	Becky Linsenbardt	General Fund
	Jon & Glenna Pfennig	General Fund
	Don & Elaine Eschberger	General Fund
Gary Kruse & Prissy	Rosie Haas	Endowment Fund
	Susan Clanton	Endowment Fund
	Jeff & Randi Jovanovich	Capital Improvement
Norine Robbins Dunn Robin Dunn's Mother-in-Law	Hoya & Angie Ash	General Fund

FROM THE TREASURER			
Needed weekly, \$4720 to cover General Fund expenses		January Monthly Activity	
General Fund Income YTD	\$0.00	\$14,893.22	\$14,893.22
General Fund Expenses YTD	\$0.00	(\$18,599.06)	(\$18,599.06)
	\$0.00	(\$3,705.84)	(\$3,705.84)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Baytown, TX
Council Retreat
February 3, 2024

Members Present: Ian Gillespie, Pastor Nancy Simpson, Kim Holle, Donna Reavis, Susan Clanton, Rosie Haas, Becky Linsenbardt, Angie Ash, Beverly Tomsic, Luis Estrada, Linda Hendricks, Cathleen Mahan

Members Absent: John Schlobohm

The Retreat began at 8:30 with a prayer and devotional led by Pastor Nancy, followed by breakfast and welcome by Chairman Ian Gillespie. The business meeting commenced at 9:07. Each attendee completed the personal information sheet.

January 11, 2024 Minutes

Donna Reavis MOVED, Susan Clanton seconded, to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2024, council Meeting. Motion carried.

Review of Green Book - Congregational Handbook

- Council Responsibilities
- Committee Responsibilities
- Church Calendar
- Council Contact Information

Church Council 2024

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
Donna Reavis	Education/Youth & Fam
Luis Estrada	Member at Large
Linda Hendricks	Member at Large
Becky Linsenbardt	Member at Large
Cat Mahan	Member at Large
Beverly Tomsic	Member at Large

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January Financials

Kim Holle presented the January, 2024 financials. She reported that income exceeded expenses in the amount of \$ 3,705.84.

Susan Clanton MOVED, Cat Mahan seconded, to approve the report as presented. Motion Carried.

Kim Holle MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded that dividends from the endowment fund be reinvested back into that fund rather than deposited into the general fund. The dividends can be transferred into the general fund at any time if desired.

Kim reported that she had reviewed the janitorial contract. It was noted that there has been no fee increase since 2012. Kim MOVED, Susan Clanton seconded, that the contract with Bay South Maintenance Services be increased to, but not to exceed, \$430 per month, with the inclusion to the contract of cleaning the parlor and the choir loft as needed. The work will be monitored.

Goals for 2024

- Council discussed the future of St. Paul's and listed the following as possible goals for 2024:
- Increase giving
- Increase membership
- Increase the capital improvement/major repairs fund
- Add a Stewardship Committee
- Remain open and operating (considering the financial situation of the church)
- Have an outside greeter
- Greet people we don't know
- Repair lighting on the building, on the bell tower area, on the sign on Schilling St.
- Consider a computer generated sign with church information on the Highway 146 side

Committee Reports**Youth and Family**

- Green Ice cream floats and pretzels will be prepared March 17 after church in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. A free-will offering will be received.
- The church Flea Market will be held Saturday, March 16 from 9 AM – 2 PM. Hot dogs, chips, and brownies will be sold. Proceeds from the Flea Market and hot dog sale will go to the church's general fund.
- On Easter Sunday, March 31 A potluck style Victory breakfast will be held.

Worship and Music

- Easter worship plans were reviewed. February 14 – (Ash Wednesday) there will be Ashes to Go in the parking lot from 11:00 – 1:00. That evening there will be a 7:00 PM service in the sanctuary. Mid-week Lenten services will be February 21, February 28, March 6, 11 & 20 with soup at 11:30 and devotion at Noon. Palm Sunday is March 24, and Easter is March 31.

The Retreat ended with the Lord's Prayer.

The March Council Meeting will be held March 14 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Ash, Secretary



Installation of the 2024 Church Council

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



Scan to Give



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.



The Houston Food Bank supplied us with beautiful sweet potatoes, turnips, avocados, and blueberries. What a blessing for our Food Pantry clients. And thanks to Johnny Perez from Niagara Water Bottling Co. for donating a pallet of water