



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

May 2023

Hello sisters and brothers in Christ,

I was driving through Humble, Texas thinking about what it takes to be a humble person, in our fast paced world, with all the competition and drivenness to get ahead. I've heard Tim McGraw's country song about always being humble and kind, and Mac Davis's song, "It's hard to be humble." At its Latin roots, humble means low, grounded. I think of ancient Biblical times of those who bowed low and went down to the ground in the presence of kings, angels and God. I think of the woman who had a daughter with an unclean spirit and came and bowed down at Jesus' feet.

In the Biblical book of James chapter 4:6-7, it reads, "But God gives all the more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but God gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." Keeping God close in your mind and heart, is the path of humbleness.

Jesus lived in humbleness with his love and obedience to God the Father, and he was full of grace that he freely gives us. As Philippians 2:8 states, "he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross."

I heard someone speak recently on YouTube about being humble. His recommendation was to clean a toilet everyday and that would keep you humble. He offers this advice because he admired a man who cleaned toilets daily and didn't complain about it. Mucking out horse stalls, changing dirty diapers, cleaning dirty dishes and scrubbing floors are in the same vein. These jobs must be done, and they can be done with a good attitude of service. However, the Biblical model of being humble is connected to having love for God and serving God out of that love.

Those who draw close to God in humbleness, receive God's grace. Taking steps of faith, calling on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive our sins, worship and prayer, listening to what the Lord has to say to our heart, moves us closer to God and creates a spiritual environment for humbleness to grow. Being humble before God, our "daily doings" become grace filled, whether it is cleaning toilets or mowing the church lawn in the heat of the summer.



Micah 6:8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

God's blessings, Pastor Nancy



Birthdays

4—Sylvia Perry
 10—Robert Barth
 11—Cori Stephens
 17—Michelle Barnes
 18—Steve Burns
 18—Beverly Tomsic
 21—Jeff Mahan
 21—Blake Simons
 22—Floyd Eickenhorst
 24—Ed Bakemeier
 25—Pasty Hilton
 29—Clarke Crizer
 29—Brian Viereck
 30—Allie Stephens

Baptismal Anniversaries

1—Patsy Hilton
 6—Chad Davis
 7—Elaine Eschberger
 8—Jeff Ganske
 9—Bryce Barnes
 9—Jacy Barnes
 10—Kazin Ramoudit
 16—Doris Rein
 24—Jada Hylton
 27—Caroline Rein

Church Offices Closed
Monday, May 29th

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
- 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 Church Council for the wonderful Easter breakfast
- All who helped at the Church Workday
- All who donated items for the LWR Care Kits
- All who have donated canned tuna for the food pantry

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 **May 7**.



Golden Group Activities

Monthly Luncheon

Tuesday, May 16th at 11:30am
 888 Chinese Restaurant, Baytown

Bus Trip Wednesday May 31st

Arbor Gate in Tomball w/ lunch at Pecos Grilling Company

cost: \$3

Bus leaves church at 9am

Lunch on your own

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

landrews1124@gmail.com

Welcome Keith Weber

as our Interim Pianist/Organist. He will be with us as we enter the search for a new Director of Music Ministries.



SYNDOD ASSEMBLY

May 19-20, 2023

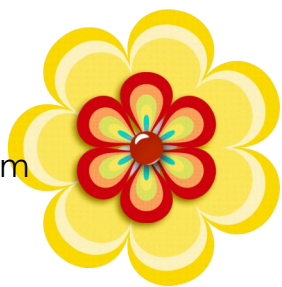
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Woodlands, TX

Pastor Nancy Simpson, Ian Gillespie, and Debbie Gillespie are going as our voting members.

Psalm 126:3

The Lord has done great things and we are filled with joy.

**Ladies Spring
Fajita Luncheon**



Saturday, May 6th 11:30 am
Held at St. Paul's,
Catered by Luna's.
\$15 per plate. Sign up sheet in
Fellowship Hall.

Happy Mother's Day!

Sunday May 14th,
all women will receive a
carnation after church.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 28th WEAR RED

I will put my spirit within you, and you
shall live... Ezekiel 37:14

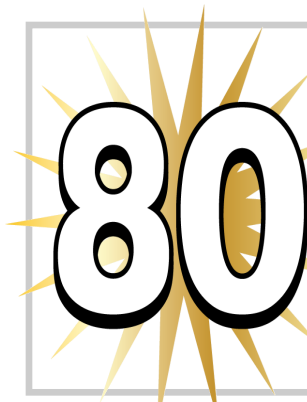
Youth Connect

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

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



With donations from St. Paul's and Good Shepherd Lutheran,
the youth were able to assembly 103 Lutheran World Relief
Care Kits! Thank you everyone!



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

Join us Sunday, June 4th,
Worship at 10:30 followed by a
celebratory luncheon.

**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.*

GRADUATION SUNDAY May 21st They will be blessed during the service

LAUREN ELIZABETH PERRY

School: Ross S. Sterling High School

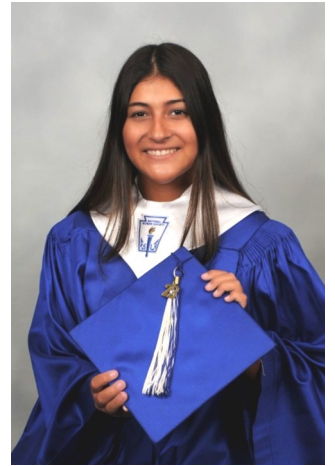
Parents: Reagan and Sylvia Perry

Grandparents: Diane Hernandez and Elizabeth Perry

Special Interests, clubs or accomplishments: Varsity Tennis, Student Council, and National Honor Society, Student in the Health and Science Academy. I am also a part-time employee of Chic -Fil-A.

Plans after graduation: My plans after high school are to attend Texas State University in San Marcos and seek a degree in Nursing.

Plans for the future: I plan to be a labor and delivery nurse after college.



JACKSON DAUCY CRIZER

School: Barbers Hill High School

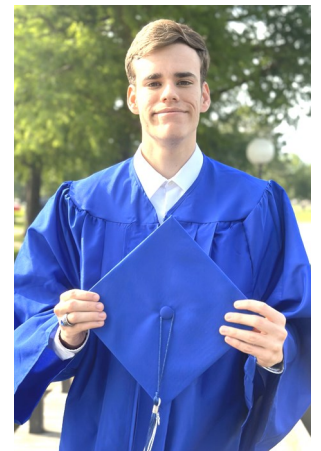
Parents: Daucy & Jennifer Crizer

Grandparents: Clarke & Joyce Crizer

Special interests/clubs/accomplishments: 2 year varsity soccer player, 2 time Academic All District, Heart of an Eagle Award (given to a soccer player based on character), Harry Potter Book Club, and Strategy Club. Also received a Distinguished Scholar scholarship from Lamar University

Plans after graduation: Attend Lamar University this fall studying accounting.

Plans for the future: Hoping to eventually go into forensic accounting.



LOGAN PAUL CRIZER

School: Barbers Hill High School

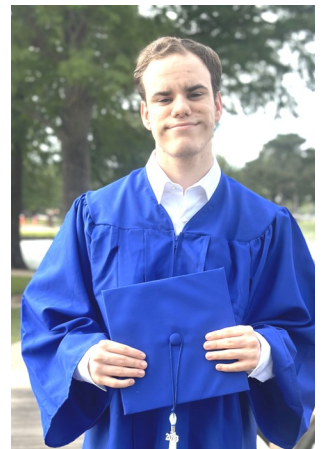
Parents: Daucy & Jennifer Crizer

Grandparents: Clarke & Joyce Crizer

Special interests/clubs/accomplishments: Spanish Club, Harry Potter Book Club, and Strategy Club. Awarded membership in the National Society of High School Scholars

Plans after graduation: Attend Lamar University this fall studying History.

Plans for the future: Plan to become a high school history teacher.



followed by a cake and punch reception in the Fellowship Hall.

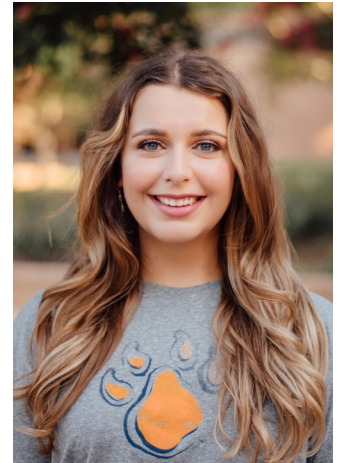
AMY ELIZABETH ANDREWS

School: Sam Houston State University, graduated August 6, 2022 with a major in Construction Management and a minor in Interior Design. I started my career with Russell Marine LLC on August 8, 2022.

Parents: David and Lorrie Andrews

Special Interests, clubs or accomplishments: travel, camping skiing, and reading. Some of my accomplishments are designing the set up for St. Paul's Food Pantry, helping my cousin design her bakery, being on the team that prepared the Battleship Texas for the move to Galveston, and buying my first home.

Plans for the future: To make money



KIRSTEN LEE MAHAN

School: Deer Park High School

Parents: Jeffrey Mahan & Cathleen Mahan

Grandparents: Cathey Pierce & Bevly Pierce, Donald Mahan & Dee Mahan

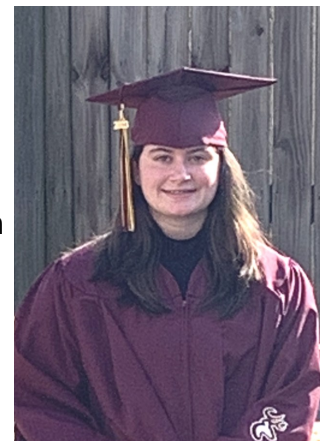
Special Interests, clubs or accomplishments:

Law Enforcement Club - 3 year member

Pals Color Guard - Rifle Section Leader - 4 year member, GPA - 3.7

Plans after graduation: San Jacinto College - Associate Degree Criminal Justice, University of Houston - Bachelor Degree

Plans for the future: I plan on attending the Game Warden Academy after graduation at U of H for my Bachelors degree.



Allie Stephens and Brooks Bruner received their First Communion on Easter Sunday April 9, 2023 as they were surrounded by their loving families.

April Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of:

Jerry Webster
(son-in-law of
Anna Maria Chauviere)

Given By:

Jon & Glenna Pfennig
Rosie Haas
Hoya & Angie Ash

Designation:

General Fund
General Fund
General Fund

Regina Rein

Hoya & Angie Ash
Kris Torberson

General Fund
Food Pantry

Bob White
(brother of Stan White)

Beverly Tomsic
David & Lorrie Andrews

General Fund
General Fund

In Honor of:

Rick Falconi

Given By:

Susan Clanton

Designation:

General Fund

Tithely Online Giving

Scan the QR Code with your smartphone's camera to give online. Or go to: www.stpaulsbaytown.org Click on the "Give" link to create an account. Now you can give anywhere from any tablet or computer.



From the Treasurer

		March	
		<u>Monthly Activity</u>	
General Fund Income YTD	81,985.17	20,174.64	102,159.81
General Fund Expenses YTD	(39,107.05)	(18,746.04)	(57,853.09)
	<u>42,878.12</u>	<u>1,428.60</u>	<u>44,306.72</u>

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, Baytown, TX — Council Meeting — April 13, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order by President, Ian Gillespie at 6:35 PM. Pastor Nancy led the group in the opening prayer.

Faith Story John Schlobohm presented his faith story.

MARCH COUNCIL MNUTES: Angie Ash MOVED, Kim Holle seconded to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2023 Council meeting. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- First Bible presented to Alaina Olivares on March 26.
- Second grade Bible presented to Gwen Blakey on March 26.
- Taught 1st Communion to Brooks Bruner and Allie Stephens who received first communion on April 2.
- Trained Clarke Crizer and Susan Clanton as Assistant Ministers.
- Synod Assembly will be voting on Reconciling In Christ (RIC).
- Director of Music Ministries Rick Falconi's last day will be Sunday April 30. Pastor is currently looking for a fill-in pianist/organist. Worship and Music Committee is in the process of updating the qualification/compensation sheet for the job position. Council was asked to review 2023 Annual Report for what the congregation approved for Director of Music Ministries.
- Keith Weber, Music Director at Salem Lutheran Church, will be our fill-in musician for Sunday, June 4 (the 80th anniversary service). He is not available for the reception.
- Assembly of God Church wants to renew their current contract for 6 months (Thursdays 7-9 PM and Sundays 2-5 PM) to rent the Fellowship Hall. We are waiting on signatures.
- Lutheran World Relief Care Kits Good Shepherd Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran will assemble LWR donations during Youth Connect. They will be blessed during worship April 16.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kim Holle distributed the Monthly Fund Report for March, 2023, noting that income exceeded expenses in the amount of \$1,428.60. Susan Clanton MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded, to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried.

Green Book Review (The new book is green.)

- Council reviewed the green book timeline. An addition to the timeline is St. Paul's 80th anniversary celebration June 4.

Review of St Paul's Constitution Updates

- Susan Clanton reviewed St. Paul's Constitution updates. Due to a number of questions, it was decided that approval of the updates would be postponed until the entire constitution could be reviewed. Approval will be done at the May Council meeting.

Reconciling In Christ (RIC)

- Council discussed RIC information which was previously made available to council members. If the synod approves becoming RIC at the May synod general assembly, it would mean that the Gulf Coast Synod would continue to authorize and affirm its LGBTQ Coalition and Anti-Racial Team.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth & Family

- Flea Market - Donna thanked all those who participated in the Flea Market. A total of \$1,858.85 was made. It was decided to have a second flea market in mid September. Only parking lot spots will be sold. No food will be sold, and there will be no church booth.
- Approximately 60 individuals were served Easter breakfast.
- Graduation Sunday will be May 21. There are 5 high school and college graduates. Cake and punch will be served after church.

Inreach/Outreach

- Golden Group lunch April 18 at Going's North Main
- Pot Luck – April 30th
- Ladies Spring Lunch will be May 6th
- Golden Group bus trip May 31 – Arbor Gate in Tomball
- 80th Anniversary Celebration will be June 4th. It will be catered.

Property

- Kurt reported that the work day was a success, with a large amount of work completed.
- Working parking lot lighting issues.
- Scheduling fire and health department inspections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Ash, Secretary

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stpaulssecretary@comcast.net
www.stpaulsbaytown.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

SAVE THE DATE
Healing Service
Sunday, June 11th



Happy Easter St. Paul's