



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

October 2023

Hello sisters and brothers in Christ,

October is Reformation month! All month long, the paraments are red at St. Paul's. Red in the church is significant to remind us that Jesus Christ shed his blood for us on the cross so that we may live. We stand on the Bible witness as did Martin Luther:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9.

In the DNA of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and all Lutheran churches is the legacy of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther, who wrote his 95 Theses, which were nailed on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, October 31, 1517. The church door was used like a bulletin board where researched ideas, beliefs, and propositions could be posted and discussed in the community. The 95 Theses started a process of reforms to enable Christians to hear and read the scriptures in their own language in worship, pray congregational prayers, sing congregational hymns, confess sin and be absolved in worship, and many other reforms. Buying paper indulgences from the Roman Catholic church to receive salvation was rejected. Here are just a few of his Theses:

Speaking for our Christian treasure: Thesis 62: "The right and true treasure of the Church is the most Holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God."

Speaking for God's gifts of Christ and the Church: Thesis 37: "Every true Christian, be he still alive or already dead, partaketh in all benefits of Christ and of the Church given him by God, even without letters of indulgence."

Speaking in strong, soul rattling language against indulgences as a way of salvation: Thesis 32: "On the way to eternal damnation are they and their teachers, who believe that they are sure of their salvation through indulgences."

By the year 1522 (5 years after he posted his 95 Theses), much of Wittenberg, Germany was celebrating Lutheran worship services and it spread throughout Europe and further. Change and reform for the cause of the Gospel came at a price. Many lost their lives over these reform initiatives. Luther was willing to give himself to studying the Bible in school for many years, read and taught the Bible, learned the original languages of the Bible, reflected, debated, and wrote tremendous amounts to spread the gospel and enlighten and reform the church.

We celebrate Martin Luther's contributions to the witness of the Gospel and our life in the Lutheran Church today, as we pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Onward by faith,
Pastor Nancy Simpson



OCTOBER

Birthdays

1 – Grace Reavis
 1 – Jenna Seymour
 4 – Russell Holle
 10– Monica Olivares
 11 – Tanner Carter
 11 - Rosie Haas
 12 – Cheryl Boehme
 14—Luis Estrada
 15 – Kyle Migl
 22 – Ian Gillespie
 22—Mateo DelosSantos
 23 – Jeanie Herrington
 24 - Mike Stephens
 25 – Birdie Torberson
 26 – Nancy Simpson
 27 – Garrett Reavis
 29 – Jan Lorfing
 30 – Susie Salo

Baptismal Anniversaries

1 – Mary Schlobohm
 17 – Haley Johnston
 18 – Sandra McGee
 19 – Beverly Tomsic
 24 – Melody Rein
 27—Aaron Forcier
 28—Jamie Davis
 28—Skyler Davis
 29 – Corbin Haro

Wedding Anniversaries

5 - Boo Boo & Deana Fojt
 10—Aaron & Samantha Forcier
 10 – David & Jada Hylton
 10 – Stan & Sherry White
 14—Adrianna & Bill Stevens

Moved

Monica Olivares
 PO Box 311
 Cedar Lane, TX 77415

Thank You

- Thank you to Ian Gillespie, Hoya Ash, Kurt and Kelly Migl, Darren and Natalie Seymour, 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.
- To Bubba Gonzales for organizing and cleaning the Food Pantry before our annual monitor visit from the HFB
- To the knitters and crocheters for the prayer shawls & hospital blankets
- To Sheila Ludwigs for being an office Angel several times. All angels are appreciated.
- To all who donated items for our God's Work Our Hands Seafarer's Christmas Shoebox project
- To Bonnie Kilburn for sorting all the shoebox items
- To Ian Gillespie & Kurt Migl for adding our street address to the Schilling Avenue church sign
- To Jada Hylton and Pastor Nancy for cleaning up the Coke Room, the Prayer Shawl closet, and brightening up the Nursery
- Thank you to all who helped with the fall **Flea Market**. We raised almost \$1,200 for the general fund and had great weather! A big thank you to James and Sandra McGee, Hoya and Angie Ash and family, Debbie Gillespie, and Rosie Haas for donating their flea market proceeds to the general fund.



Special Thank you

I want to thank everyone who sent prayers my way, and also for the soup, the cards, and lunch. And I want to thank Linda and Erwin Hendricks for taking over the Adopt-A-Spot for September. We have such a great bunch of people at St. Paul's. Beverly Tomsic ♥

FIRST SUNDAY CONFIRMATION CLASSES

(Teaching of the Christian faith for Lutherans)

FOR Baptized 5th Graders through Adults

Begins Sunday, October 1, 2023,
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (in the parlor)

If you have **never** been to Confirmation classes or have **not finished** your Confirmation classes, **THIS IS FOR YOU!** It is a 2-year program of Christian education in the Lutheran Church and an important milestone on your faith journey as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. It is your Affirmation of Baptism! Don't let this opportunity pass you or your children by. Let's do this together by faith!

Classes will be held **EACH FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.** You will be growing in your relationship with God (Father/Son/Holy Spirit) and in your participation in the Church (the Body of Christ), learn the basics of the Christian faith and what it means to be a member of the church in the Lutheran tradition, being a disciple/follower of Jesus Christ, Bible, 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the 2 Sacraments of the Church – Baptism and Holy Communion, etc.

Confirmation Mentor: Wes Bruner
Confirmation Teacher: Pastor Nancy

Prayer for Pets Sunday, October 1st

There will be a special prayer in the service. Email a photo/name of your pet to the church office.

There'll be a slideshow in the Fellowship Hall. Donations of cat and dog food, towels, pet food bowls, and old boxes will be blessed at the altar then given to the Baytown Animal Shelter.



80+ Birthday Blessing Sunday, October 8th

Ken Peting
Colleen Peting
Doris Rein
Kathryn Wright
Jake Fojt
Dorothy Johnston
Ruth Blue
James McGee
Floyd Eickenhorst
Anna Maria Chauviere
Linda Hendricks
Fran LaDoux
Rosie Haas
Clarke Crizer
Carolyn Smith
Glena Pfennig
Jon Pfennig
Sandra McGee
Helen Fojt
Elaine Eschberger
Sherry Eickenhorst
Millie Baxter
Ben Vircant
Don Eschberger
Carol Danklefsen
Erwin Hendricks

Our honorees (those who have or will be turning 80 this year) will receive a blessing during the worship service. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship for cupcakes and punch.

Handbell Rehearsal

Sunday's at 8:30am. All are welcome. No experience necessary.



Golden Group Activities

Monthly Luncheon

Tuesday, October 17th, 11:30am
Luna's Mexican, Baytown



Bus Trip

Wednesday, November 16th
Early Christmas Shopping @ Tanger Outlet Mall
Lunch: Tookie's Seafood
Bus leaves St. Paul's parking lot at 9am

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

Reformation Sunday

OCTOBER 29TH

Wear Something Red!



*Rooted in the past,
growing into the future.*

Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom that the word of God grants to believers.

We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work.

Living out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world.

Praying that with the help of God's Spirit, the church will be continually reformed and renewed.

Trusting in the freedom given to us in Baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

There will be a POTLUCK following the service. Please bring a dish to share and stay and enjoy the blessings of good food and fellowship.



October is Pastor Appreciation month.

Send Pastor Nancy a meaningful card, email, or text of thanks and appreciation!

remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:3



Robin Dunn was installed as our new Director of Music Ministries on September 3, 2023.



Dennis, Colleen, and Ken Peting with Pastor Nancy

GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS PROJECT—CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR SEAFARERS



Cindi Moreno, a transport driver with the Houston International Seafarers Center came by and picked up 40 Christmas shoeboxes



Ian Gillespie and Kurt Migl hard at work during the Property Meeting



Thanks to a Capacity Grant awarded from the Houston Food Banke we were able to get another commercial merchandizer for our Pantry. Thank you Houston Food Bank! And thank you to our Food Pantry volunteers for all their hard work. We couldn't do it without you!

September Memorials & Honorariums

In HONOR of:	Given By:	Designation:
Robin Dunn	Susan Clanton	General Fund
Jennifer Crizer <i>(She made a beautiful prayer shawl for Jef Farrell who is battling cancer)</i>	Hoya & Angie Ash	General Fund

FROM THE TREASURER			
Needed weekly, \$4815 to cover General Fund Expenses.		AUGUST Monthly Activity	
General Fund Income YTD	175,968.12	20,101.82	196,069.94
General Fund Expenses YTD	(136,957.87)	(19,796.03)	(156,753.90)
	39,010.25	305.79	39,316.04



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 aren't in worship:

- **Send a check by mail**
- **Through your bank** – setup an automatic draft weekly or monthly
- **Online Giving** using Tithe.ly. 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"



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baytown, TX
Council Meeting September 14, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order by President Ian Gillespie at 6:33 PM. Pastor Nancy led the group in the opening prayer.

AUGUST COUNCIL MINUTES Kim Holle MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded, to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2023, Council meeting. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- First Sunday confirmation will begin Sunday, October 1 at 9:30 AM in the parlor, continuing every first Sunday for a 2-year program. This will be for baptized fifth graders and on up to adults.
- Received a request to rent the kitchen/fellowship hall for a birthday party on Saturday, September 30 from 12:00 Noon to 7:00 PM. Renters will arrive at 10:00 AM to decorate. Ian Gillespie volunteered to open and close the church for the party. Kim Holle suggested that we charge an additional \$100 rental fee for the two hours to decorate.

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- Council was presented amendments to the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen Rental Agreement Contract as follows:
 - ⇒ Each event must end by 9:00 PM.
 - ⇒ Use of rental space (up to 2 hours prior to the event to decorate) - \$100 fee.
 - ⇒ Instead of having one contract, separate into two contracts (one for members and one for non-members) to avoid confusion over fees.
 Kim Holle MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded to approve the amendments as presented.
Motion Carried.
- Continuing Education- 9/28/23 Biblical Archeology Society Scholars Series: Amy-Jill Levine
- God's Work/Our Hands- Seafarers Center picked up 40 Christmas boxes and cards for the seafarers.
- Thank you to Sherry and Stan White for making name tags.
- Thank you to Ian Gillespie and Kurt Migl for updating and cleaning the Schilling St. sign.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kim Holle presented the financials for August. She reported that income in August exceeded expenses in the amount of \$305.79. Donna Reavis MOVED, Rosie Haas seconded to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.
- Staff Insurance renewal deadline is October 13. The health benefit package for Pastor & Jada is going up by \$30 per year per person. Kim Holle MOVED, Kurt Migl seconded, to continue the health and benefit package. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Security System - Review of equipment and monitoring continues, Church Insurance contract -tabled until more information is gathered.
- Organ Update- Becky Linsenbardt reported that Allen Organ has relocated to Carrollton, Texas, but continues to service organs in the Houston area. Becky will find out if they plan to be in the Houston area in the near future to check out St. Paul's organ.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

Property- Kurt reported that the AC in the nursery/bathroom area has been replaced by Taylor AC at a cost of \$10,975.

Inreach/Outreach

- Civil rights training required by Houston Food Bank has been completed by Lorrie Andrews.
- Food Pantry capacity grant was received from the Houston Food Bank. Coolers Inc. was contacted to order the Commercial Merchandiser refrigerator.
- Golden Group September luncheon will be September 19 at Outback Steakhouse.
- Pet Blessing will be October 1.
- 80 and Over Birthday Celebration will be October 8 with cupcakes from Quizzie served.

Youth and Family

- September Flea Market will be held Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 – 2:00. There will be no BBQ and no church booth. An office angel is needed for Friday September 15 to assist people in buying spots.
- German Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 21 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM. Robin is available to play music. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children. Sign up sheets for helpers, food donations, cake walk, silent auction, and advertising will begin October 1

Worship and Music

- Christmas drama costumes and props have been stored.
- Choir robes will be inventoried by Susan and donated to a group.
- Reformation Sunday is October 29.
- Thanksgiving service will be November 19.
- Christmas Eve Service will be Sunday at 5:00 PM.

The Green Book was reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Ash, Secretary

Monthly Committee Meetings

1st Sunday—Property

1st Sunday—Educ./Youth & Family

3rd Sunday—Worship & Music

4th Sunday—Inreach/Outreach

Meetings begin at 11:45am

Everyone is welcome to attend!



Chaplain Elvin Fortune came by to pick up the hospital blankets for Baytown Houston Methodist Hospital. We are blessed to be part of this ministry.



Adopt A Spot

Thank you to Clarke Crizer and Erwin and Linda Hendricks for doing our quarterly cleanup at the Sterling Library!

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 712 SCHILLING AVE. BAYTOWN 281-422-9333

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
5-8 PM

German Dinner

LIVE MUSIC
CAKE WALK
SILENT AUCTION

TICKETS:
\$20 ADULTS \$5 KIDS

TICKET INCLUDES: APPETIZERS, DINNER, DESSERT AND 2 DRINK TICKETS

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. PAUL'S GENERAL FUND

German Dinner

Saturday, October 21st, 5-8pm

Silent Auction, cake walk, live music and dinner! Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ten and under. Please purchase your tickets before the event so we know how many people to prepare for. Sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall for food and baked goods donations, silent auction donations, and volunteering before, during and after the event. We appreciate your support as all proceeds will benefit the general fund. Questions: see Donna Reavis reavis5@hotmail.com

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

See Donna Reavis before or after church on Sunday to buy your tickets. Or you can call the church office to reserve your tickets.

Tickets are \$20 each which include:
 Appetizer, dinner, dessert & two drink tickets.