



St. Paul's Lutheran

THE EPISTLE

September 2023

September greetings brothers and sister in Christ,

The Lord is doing a new thing! It is a privilege to welcome Robin Dunn as our new Director of Music Ministries at St. Paul's. Let's give her a hearty welcome, as she will be installed during the worship service on Sunday, September 3. She comes with a vast collection of skills in the musical field, and experience in playing and leading in churches as well as teaching in music and instruments.

I have a new appreciation for Music Directors, pianists, and organists, in leading and facilitating Sunday morning worship. In the Lutheran Church, offering our voices to God through hymns, choral singing, and playing musical instruments is from the heart and connects to the theology of the Gospel message. Our souls are lifted up by the Holy Spirit through sacred music, and we are joined to each other as one in faith as we sing together.

Pastor Martin Luther commended music in the church as second only to theology. He composed 19 of our hymns in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal in our pew racks. If you consider the first words of his hymns written in the late 1400's to 1500's, you see they are grounded in bringing our souls to God and banishing empty and distressing thoughts:

Hymn 263 "Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home..."

Hymn 411 "We all believe in one true God who created earth and heaven..."

Hymn 499 "O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you..."

Hymn 503 "A mighty fortress is our God..."

Hymn 594 "Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice with exultation singing..."

Hymn 784 "Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord..."

You could say, singing and instrument playing are in the roots of our church and are a vital part of who we are as Lutherans. Our Christian faith in Jesus Christ can be shown through preaching, singing, playing instruments in worship, along with other forms of service to God.



The Apostle Paul and Timothy encourage the church from their letter in Colossians 3:16:

"The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

Blessings in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Nancy Simpson



Birthdays

6—Daniel Barras
 12 - Alexandria Edwards
 14—Luna Moreno
 21—Kirsten Mahan
 22 – Ty Haro
 23 – Jacy Barnes
 23— Boo Boo Fojt
 24 – Carol Danklefsen
 25 – Jennifer Carter

Baptismal Anniversaries

1 – Stan White
 1 – Karen Guthmiller
 9 - Tori Rein
 12 – Ben Vircant
 16 – Brooks Bruner
 16 – Glena Pfennig
 19 – Elizabeth Elizondo
 20—David Andrews
 22 – Harold Pate
 27 – Steve Burns
 27 – Justin Stevens
 30 – Robert Barth

Wedding Anniversaries

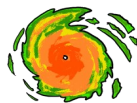
8/8 Jeff & Cat Mahan
 4 – David & Lorrie Andrews
 5 – Jon & Glena Pfennig
 5 — Hannah & Sean Zarsky
 14 – Floyd & Sherry Eickenhorst
 21—Dave & Donna Reavis
 24—Jerry & Helen Reavis
 26—Erwin & Linda Hendricks

IT'S HURRICANE SEASON

Be Prepared!

**Learn How to be a
 72 hour Lutheran at**

www.stpaulsbaytown.org



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. And thank you to the Houston Food Bank for providing us with food. We couldn't do it without you!
- To the knitters and crocheters for the prayer shawls & hospital blankets
- To Donna Reavis for hanging the fish mobile in the Sanctuary
- To Debbie Gillespie and Sheila Ludwigs for volunteering in the office
- To Ting Ke and Keith Weber for playing the piano for Sunday worship
- To Luis Estrada for waxing and buffing the Fellowship Hall AGAIN! It looks fantastic!
- To Susan Clanton and Jada Hylton for cleaning the choir loft



Golden Group Activities

Monthly Luncheon

Tuesday, September 19th
 at 11:30am

Outback Steakhouse, Baytown

There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall

Text or email Lorrie for more info:

281-382-9770

landrews1124@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl

& Hospital

Blanket



Blessing Sunday, September 24th

If you know of someone in need of a prayer shawl please come to the church office.



We welcome Robin Dunn as our new Director of Music Ministries

Robin Dunn is a retired elementary music teacher from Pasadena, Texas, where, in addition to directing choir & handbells at Golden Acres Elementary School, she had the honor of directing the handbell choir for the PISD biennial Music Festival. She has also spent several decades serving in area churches as organist and/or music director, including at Trinity Episcopal, Baytown, Cedar Bayou-Grace UMC, Baytown and most recently Sunset UMC, Pasadena.

Mrs. Dunn earned her Master's Degree in Organ Performance from UH in 2009, and after spending several semesters playing with the Lee College Jazz Band, she had the opportunity to direct the ensemble this past spring. Teaching piano lessons was part of her job description, and this fall Robin will add teaching organ lessons as part of her duties as Adjunct Professor of Instrumental Music.



FALL FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16TH

9AM-2PM

Reserve your spot now! Spots are \$25. Call the church office 281-422-9333 or see Donna Reavis on Sunday. Take some advertising flyers with you to display (ie...library, exercise class, grocery store, hair salon) All proceeds go towards the general fund. The church will not have a spot for you to donate your items. No food will be sold at this event.



Adopt—A—Spot

Saturday, September 23rd at 8am

Please meet at the Sterling Library to pick up trash. Erwin and Linda Hendricks are leading the event. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



SAVE THE DATES!



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. Photos will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Do Not bring your pet to the church.

80th & Over Birthday Milestone

Sunday, October 8th

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.



German Dinner

Saturday, October 21st, 5-8pm with live music, silent auction & cake walk. More information to come!



God's Work. Our Hands.

Sunday September 10th

This year we will be collecting items for the Houston International Seafarers Christmas Shoebox Program.

What is God's Work. Our Hands?

On this dedicated day of service, thousands of ELCA churches celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Houston International Seafarers Center

The Houston International Seafarers Center exists to provide a physical and social presence as well as various related services for all seafarers coming to the Port Houston. We visit ships everyday, 7 a days a week, 365 days a year. We are a secure resource for transportation, various communication service tools, building relationships and providing a safe harbor for all visiting our Center.

Christmas Shoebox Program

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of seafarers, a wonderful connection for Christmas Giving to the Seafarers! Many seafarers are alone at sea and missing their families at Christmas. A festively wrapped shoebox, filled with goodies, will provide comfort and a bit of happiness to these dedicated men and women.

COLLECTING SHOEBOX ITEMS

A collection table is in the Fellowship Hall. Plastic shoeboxes will be provided.



Chaplain Jeffrey Baldwin from the Houston International Seafarers Center gave a Temple Talk about this ministry on Sunday, August 6th

After Worship on Sunday September 10th, we will assemble and wrap the Christmas shoeboxes.

Please take the time to write a little note in the Christmas cards that will available. A personal note of encouragement and thanks is as important or possibly more than the gifts inside the shoebox.

ITEMS FOR THE SHOEBOX:

Stress Ball
Games
Playing Cards
Word Search/Sudoku/Fill-in books
Gum & Hard Candy
Popcorn
NESCAFE Instant Coffee
Socks
Cold Weather Caps
Balaclavas
T-shirts (NEW)
Light Weight Work Gloves
2024 Pocket Calendar
Multi-Vitamins / Fish Oil
Texas Magnets
Texas Souvenirs
Texas Key Chains
Small Bibles (NIV, RSV)
Devotional materials
Earbuds/Headphones
Small Whistle
Baseball Caps/Beanie's (NEW)
Small Flashlight w/ batteries
Signed Personal note



Our food Pantry volunteers getting their annual Civil Rights and Food Safety training.



Happy 80th Birthday Ben Vircant!



Back to School Blessing on Sunday, August 13th



St. Paul's in pictures

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baytown, TX
 Council Meeting August 10, 2023

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

In The absence of President Ian Gillespie, the meeting was called to order by Vice President John Schlobohm at 6:30 PM.

Pastor Nancy led the group in the opening prayer.

JULY COUNCIL MINUTES Susan Clanton MOVED, Kim Holle seconded, to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2023, Council meeting. Motion carried.

SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MINUTES of July 26, 2023 Meeting

Members Present: Donna Reavis, Ian Gillespie, Pastor Nancy, Clarke Crizer, Susan Clanton, Kim Holle, Rosie Haas, Becky Linsenbardt, Kurt Migl, Luis Estrada. John Schlobohm. Jada Hylton was also present.

Members Absent: Angie Ash, Beverly Tomsic

Ian Gillespie called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM. Pastor Nancy, on behalf of Worship and Music committee members Susan Clanton and Jada Hylton, explained the search process for the Director of Music Ministries position. Robin Dunn, an applicant who is experienced in piano and organ, qualified to lead a vocal choir and bells, singing in parts, etc. was recommended.

John Schlobohm MOVED, Clarke Crizer seconded, to accept Robin Dunn for a 3-month probationary period. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

At the August 10 Council Meeting, Susan Clanton MOVED, Kim Holle seconded, to approve the Minutes taken at the Special Meeting of July 26, with the correction to delete the information that Jada Hylton's attendance was recorded twice. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Robin Dunn will begin her employment as Director of Music Ministries Sunday, September 3.
- The edits for St. Paul's Constitution Update from committee members Susan Clanton, Ian Gillespie, and Pastor Nancy have been submitted to the TX/LA Gulf Coast Synod Secretary Paul Antolik who has reviewed them and forwarded edits that need to be made.
- Currently in the process of coordinating with parents the day and time of ZOOM sessions with confirmands. Pastor will teach and Wes Bruner will be confirmation Mentor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kim Holle presented the financials for July. She reported that expenses in July exceeded income in the amount of \$54.05. Beverly Tomsic MOVED, Angie Ash seconded to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Security System Review is being conducted by Ian, Kim, and Jada. The current contract will be terminated when a new company is chosen.
- The cleaning contract is being reviewed by Ian and Kim.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Church Council 2023

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
Kurt Migl	Property Comm. Liaison
Donna Reavis	Education/Youth & Fam
Clarke Crizer	Member at Large
Luis Estrada	Member at Large
Becky Linsenbardt	Member at Large
Beverly Tomsic	Member at Large

NEW BUSINESS
Committee Reports

Inreach/Outreach

- The food pantry freezer and plaque have been installed.
- God's Work, Our Hands will be September 10. Our community project will be assembling and wrapping Christmas boxes for seafarers at the Port of Houston. Jada has made a list of items needed for the boxes.
- Golden Group lunch will be August 15 at Antonio's.
- Thank you to Airi Noodle for the monthly lunch donations to the Food Pantry volunteers.
- Thank you to Quizzie's for the cake and cupcake donations to the Food Pantry volunteers.

Youth and Family

- Rally Day and Backpack Blessing will be August 13.
- Back to school bowling at Max Bowl on Ward Rd. at 1:00 on August 13.
- 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.

Property

- Kurt is getting estimates to repair the AC in the nursery and rest rooms area.
- Working on lighting issues in the conference room

Worship and Music

- Susan and Jada have completed the cleaning and organizing of the choir loft.
- Susan will schedule the cleaning and organizing of the sacristy with Debbie and Becky.

The Green Book was reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next Council meeting will be September 14.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Ash, Secretary

Tithely Online Giving

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



August Memorials & Honorariums

In HONOR of:

Ken & Colleen Peting
78th Wedding Anniversary

Given By:

David & Lorrie Andrews
Susan Clanton

Designation:

General Fund
General Fund

FROM THE TREASURER		July	
Needed weekly, \$4815 to cover General Fund Expenses.		Monthly Activity	
General Fund Income YTD	156,097.95	19,870.17	175,968.12
General Fund Expenses YTD	(117,033.65)	(19,924.22)	(136,957.87)
	39,064.30	(54.05)	39,010.25

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA
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stpaulssecretary@comcast.net
www.stpaulsbaytown.org



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 Lutheran Church
 in America

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Ting Ke, Classical Piano Concert



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 Houston award
 winning concert
 pianist

14703 Eagle Vista Dr
 Houston, TX 77077
 (Eagle's Trace)

**AS Life Enrichment
 Center**

September 8, 2023

2:00 PM

Free concert, no ticket required



Golden Group
 Trip- Shopping on
 Westheimer



A special thank you to
 our bus driver, Holly!