



# St. Paul's Lutheran

# JULY 2024

# THE EPISTLE

Greetings and blessings to you all as we embrace the hot and sticky days of July! This month brings with it a sense of relaxation and adventure, as many of us embark on summer travels, taking time to refresh and reconnect with loved ones. As you journey to new places or enjoy a staycation, please remember that your church home is always here, continuing its mission and ministry. Grab a seat in our St. Paul's "virtual pew" via the Facebook livestream on Sunday morning and join our growing on-line community for worship.

I want to take a moment to gently remind you that while you are enjoying your summer activities, the church still relies on your generous financial support. Our daily operations depend on the consistent giving of our members. Whether you are near or far, your contributions can be easily made through our online giving platform, and your faithful participation in our "Jefferson Jumpstart" (where you add a mere \$10 per week to your regular tithe/offering) will help to stabilize our church's financial situation and position us to better serve the needs of Baytown and the surrounding area.

On a joyful note, our choir and handbells are taking a well-deserved break for a few weeks this summer. Their dedication and talent have blessed our services throughout the year, and we look forward to their return, refreshed and ready to inspire us with their beautiful music once again. Let us keep them in our prayers as they rest and rejuvenate.

I am also excited to share some important updates! Our updated church directory will be published early this month. Thank you for providing us with the most up to date contact information and pictures. This directory is a valuable tool for staying connected with one another, and I encourage you to make use of it to reach out and support each other within our church family.

Additionally, we are rolling out a new email service through Mailchimp. This transition will enhance our communication, making it easier for you to stay informed about church events, news, and updates. We are committed to ensuring that everyone remains connected and engaged, and this new service is a significant step forward in achieving that goal. We are just learning the features and experimenting with various formats, so let us know what you think when you receive something from the church office through this platform.

As we navigate through the summer months, let us remain steadfast in our faith and continue to support one another, especially pray for our congregational leaders as they consider the LEAD program and how best to move forward in the interim ministry process.

May God's grace and peace be with you all, wherever your summer adventures may lead you.

Peace and all good!

Pr. Steve



# JULY

## Birthdays

- 1 – Monty Barnes
- 1 – Stan White
- 6 – Haley Perry
- 7 – Dorothy Johnston
- 9 – Michelle Johnston
- 10 – Kurt Migl
- 12 – Claire Lucke
- 14 – Beaux Hargrove
- 19 – Haley Johnston
- 20- Carrie Parker

- 21—Preston Moffett
- 23—Scarlett Rein
- 28 - Paul Lucke
- 31– Jerry Reavis

## Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1—Joyce Crizer
- 10 - Carrie Parker
- 10 - Kristen Stephens
- 13 - Brian Viereck
- 13 - James Herrington
- 16 - Gretchen Bruner
- 21 - Taylor Christopherson
- 27 - Taylar Carter

- 27—Luis Estrada
- 30 - Drew Bruner
- 31 - Karen Elizondo

## Wedding Anniversaries

- 3—Jeff & Debbie Ganske
- 28 - Dennis & Susie Salo

## In Sympathy

James Raymond Herrington III  
February 21, 1945—June 30, 2024

## Thank You

- Thank you to Hoya Ash, Kurt and Kelly Migl, Cat Mahan, 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
- Kris Torberson for the donation of office supplies
- Cheryl Boehme for heading-up the Potluck
- Kurt Migl for being Johnny-on-the-spot with property issues
- Kelly Migl and Nicole Gunn for representing our Food Pantry at the Lions Club appreciation luncheon.
- Thank you to the Lions Club of Baytown for generously giving our Food Pantry \$500!
- To Bubba Gonzalez for keeping our church sign current
- To Jennifer Crizer for volunteering to be the Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator

## Golden Group Luncheon

**Lee's CK Seafood**  
**9675 Eagle Dr, Mont Belvieu**  
**Tuesday, July 16th @ 11:30am**

Sign-Up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.  
Text or email Lorrie for more info:  
281-382-9770 [landrews1124@gmail.com](mailto:landrews1124@gmail.com)



Kelly Migl and Nicole Gunn represented St. Paul's Food Pantry at the appreciation luncheon provided by the Baytown Lion's Club.

## Coastal Bay Conference

St. Paul's is hosting the Coastal Bay Conference on **Tuesday, July 16th @ 9:30 am**

Conferences are geographic divisions of the synod. They meet for mission purposes, working together on mission, leadership development, campus ministry, stewardship, and global and local mission. Pastor Steve will be representing St. Paul's.

## Food Pantry News

Our pantry will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in honor of Independence Day. On July 31st we celebrate our 12th anniversary of partnership with the Houston Food Bank!

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. Households who receive SNAP can use benefits to buy foods such as:

- bread and cereals
- fruits and vegetables
- meats, fish, and poultry
- dairy products

Together with The Houston Food Bank and the support of Be Well™ Baytown, Hearts and Hands of Baytown, host The Houston Food Bank Community Assistance Program (CAP) **every Tuesday at Hearts and Hands from 9 am - to 1 pm to assist people applying for SNAP. WALK-INS WELCOME**

If you would like more information about our services, please get in touch with Nina Sirhan (346) 453-9924 or Nataly Romero 346-715-2209.

Coffee  
and Chat  
with  
Pastor  
Steve



## Join the Conversation: One-on-One Time with Pastor Steve

As we embark on this season of transitional ministry, Pastor Steve is making time available for you to share your thoughts, concerns, and insights with him in a "1:1, sit down and visit in the parlor" experience. This is a unique chance for you to engage in meaningful conversation, ask questions, and even volunteer to get involved in some of the new things that will be coming on line. Your voice matters, and your input will help shape the future of our congregation.

### How to Sign Up:

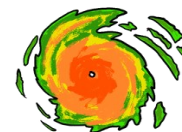
We are using [SignUpGenius](#) to make scheduling easy and convenient. Simply click on the link below to choose a time that works best for you. More detailed information is available on the sign up form once you get there.

Click here to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2mppkb>

If you have any questions about the sign-up process, please contact the church office.

## IT'S HURRICANE SEASON

Be Prepared! Learn How to be a 72 hour Lutheran  
[www.stpaulsbaytown.org](http://www.stpaulsbaytown.org)



## JEFFERSON JUMPSTART

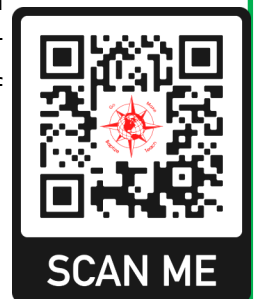
We all know the importance of having some "rainy day" money set aside for those unexpected, big expenses. Whether it's in a savings account, an IRA, or even a few Krugerrands buried in a Mason jar in the backyard, we save for those moments when something essential, like the hot water heater or the roof, needs urgent repair. Our church has a similar fund, but last month, **we had to tap into it for about \$1,000 to cover regular expenses. If we keep withdrawing at this rate, our savings will be reduced by about 30% by the end of the year**, leaving us much less prepared for any major issues that might arise.

In the Gospel lesson, Jesus spoke about how a tiny mustard seed can grow into a large, flourishing plant. This reminds us that small actions, when done consistently, can lead to significant results. Last Thursday evening, as our Church Council mulled over this problem, they realized that **if each of us increases our weekly offering by just \$10, we can replace the money we had to withdraw this month AND cover our monthly bills going forward** without further depleting our savings.

Though \$10 might seem like a small amount—less than a Starbucks run or a trip through the McDonald's drive through, **that little bump in your weekly offering will add up over time to have a big impact**, helping to ensure that our congregation is financially stable and well prepared for the future. It's much easier to get ahead of this now, rather than to try to make up for a much larger problem by the end of the year.

Which brings us to the second issue...during the Summer months, we typically see a significant drop in worship attendance as folks enjoy the opportunity to travel out of town. **When we are away from church on a Sunday morning, very few of us make it a point to send in our weekly offering before leaving or doubling up on the week when we return. An easy way to avoid this embarrassing oversight is by using the electronic giving option that we have through Tithely.** There's a QR code in the bulletin which you can scan with your smartphone, or you can visit the link on our church website, or you can call the church office to get set up. It's really that easy!

Talking about money is a touchy subject. We're a church, after all, we're not in the money business, we're in the ministry business. Of course, we also know that it takes money to do the ministry of the church. We need both! Let's sow seeds of faith and generosity together and watch our church grow strong and resilient!





The Golden Group had a great time at Daniel's Meat Market for their June luncheon



Graduation Sunday 6/2/24  
Grace Reavis, Jennifer Crizer, and Jenna Seymour (not pictured) were honored

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baytown, TX  
Council Meeting June 13, 2024

**Members Present:** Ian Gillespie, Pastor Steve Stutz, John Schlobohm, Donna Reavis, Kim Holle, Susan Clanton, Beverly Tomsic, Angie Ash, Cat Mahan, Becky Linsenbardt, Rosie Haas

**Members Absent:** Luis Estrada, Linda Hendricks

The meeting was called to order by President, Ian Gillespie at 6:30 PM.  
Pastor Steve Stutz led the group in the opening prayer and devotion.

### **MAY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Donna Reavis reported that Jennifer Crizer had been omitted from the Youth & Family report as a recent graduate, and also omitted from the May Minutes.

Kim Holle MOVED, Donna Reavis seconded, to approve the May 9 Council Minutes with the correction to include Jennifer Crizer as a recent graduate. Motion carried.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Pastor Steve reported that he had sent his report to Council prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions about it. (Report filed in Minutes.) In his report he noted that he has been meeting with Council members to get their ideas about St. Paul's and will welcome meeting with other church members as well. He and Jada meet weekly to review the calendar, (including the social media calendar), worship services, education, meetings and activities, pastoral care, and future activities.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Kim Holle distributed the Treasurer's Report for May, 2024, noting that expenses exceeded income in the amount of \$2,396.14.

Discussion was held regarding the deficit of \$981.54 and how it should be addressed. It was recommended that members would be asked to increase their giving by \$10 weekly.

John Schlobohm MOVED, Cat Mahan seconded, to approve the financials as presented and the \$10 per week giving recommendation. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Security System**

ProCam has replaced the security equipment at the church. Cameras not focusing correctly were scheduled to be repaired the week following council.

#### **Stewardship Committee**

We will proceed with the \$10 per week giving campaign at the present time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Committee Reports**

#### **Property**

- Completed fire extinguisher recertification and installation of 15 extinguishers. Total cost was \$930. Kim Holle MOVED, John Schlobohm seconded, and the motion carried, to approve the \$930 cost.
- Completed installation of new camera security system. The cost of 5 new cameras with a recording unit was \$2,470, which was previously approved. However there was an additional charge of \$110 to upgrade the monitor mounting brackets. Kim Holle MOVED, Susan Clanton seconded, to approve the \$110. Motion carried.
- There was a pipe leak in the kitchen, resulting in water on the kitchen and parlor floors. Kurt repaired the leak, and Benny, from the janitorial service, vacuumed the water.

**continued on next page**

**Inreach/Outreach**

- June Golden Group lunch was at Daniel's Meat Market.
- Pet blessing will be held in the courtyard on Saturday, October 9 at 10 AM.

**Education/Youth & Family**

August

- Backpack Blessing
- New Drivers license recognition

September

- God's Work/Our Hands
- Fall Flea Market

**Worship and Music**

- Healing service will be June 30

Susan Clanton reported that the communion vessels need to be replaced at a cost of \$350. If anyone would like to make a donation toward the purchase of these items, please see Susan.

**LEAD**

Council discussed participating in the LEAD Program, a program to help guide churches to be more effective. This item will be put on the July Council agenda.

**Orange Book Review**

- Council reviewed the orange book timeline.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.  
The July meeting will be July 11.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Ash, Secretary

| <b>FROM THE TREASURER</b>                                   |                      |                             |                      |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Needed weekly, \$4720 to cover General Fund expenses</i> |                      | <b>May Monthly Activity</b> |                      |
| General Fund Income YTD                                     | \$77,982.54          | \$16,784.22                 | \$94,766.76          |
| General Fund Expenses YTD                                   | <u>(\$76,567.94)</u> | <u>(\$19,180.36)</u>        | <u>(\$95,748.30)</u> |
|   | \$1,414.60           | (\$2,396.14)                | (\$981.54)           |

**June Memorials & Honorariums**

**In MEMORY of:**

**Given By:**

**Designation:**

Jake Fojt

Pilot Club of Baytown  
David & Jada Hylton  
Helen Fojt

General Fund  
General Fund  
General Fund

Cameron Guthier Sr.

James & Sandra McGee

General Fund

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA**

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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.

**Church Council 2024**

|                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Ian Gillespie  | President/Property Liaison |
| 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 Linsenbarat | Member at Large       |
| Cat Mahan         | Member at Large       |
| Beverly Tomsic    | Member at Large       |

**House Blessing****"Pastor, there's something strange happening to my house. Could you come over?"**

What are some signs that you might have something diabolic nesting in your home?

Here is a short, non-exhaustive list:

- Sounds or blows to the house
- Sounds of footsteps or movement
- Loud noises
- The disappearance of objects
- Sudden gusts of wind
- Pets becoming terrified
- Object levitating or being thrown
- Unusual scents and odors
- Electrical interference

None of these signs are definitive proof of a diabolic infestation. Therefore, a thorough investigation should be conducted to rule out natural causes. For example, banging in the attic might simply be a raccoon that entered through a torn screen.

Possible origins of diabolic infestation can include curses on the location, seances held in the dwelling, rituals performed by practitioners of magic, heinous crimes, suicides, abortions on the premises, rites of evocation or devotion to the devil, or the profaning of holy objects.

The first step is to rule out natural causes and research any potential activities that could have allowed entry. If you need help with this step, we have resources to guide you.

Once this is done, contact the Pastor. There is a ritual for the Blessing of a Home (ELW Pastoral Care, p. 337) that often provides relief, especially when combined with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Call the church office for more information.

