St. Paul's Epistle

"St. Paul's Lutheran Church glorifies God by connecting people to Jesus through teaching, serving, caring, & telling!"



St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1700 Carridale Street SW Decatur AL 35601 256.353.8759 www.StPaulsDec.com



Friends in Christ,

It's hard to believe that summer is drawing to a close! School is starting back in session. Summer vacation plans have ended. Tax free weekend has passed by for back to school shopping. The days are getting shorter. And this month at St. Paul's we have Sunday School Rally Day and Wednesday night FaithLinks kickoff! Yes, a new school year is upon us!

In the month of August, here at St. Paul's we will also continue with the last half of our special summer sermon series, Great Promises of God.

Sunday, August 4th – Protection for the Oppressed (Isaiah 54:17)

Sunday, August 11th - Comfort for Believers (John 14:26)

Sunday, August 18th - Eternal Life for Jesus' Sheep (John 10:27-28)

Truly, it is remarkable that our Holy and Righteous God should make even one promise to us unworthy creatures. So what shall we say, then, when we note that God's Book, the Holy Bible, literally teems with gracious promises? We can only praise, thank, serve, and obey our gracious Lord!

As those who are in Christ (Ephesians 1:1), we rejoice continually in God's goodness and we recognize that we are called to look for opportunities to share the love of Christ, and the Good News of our Savior, with those whom our Lord has placed around us in our lives. As your Pastor, I pray that you will continue to be blessed with new opportunities to share about our Lord and, in particular, invite others to join us for worship, either in-person or by distance on Facebook Live. Therefore, to help remind us who we are in Christ (Ephesians 1:1), and to provide a fresh opportunity to invite people you know and care about, we will be starting another sermon series at the end of this month, on the book of Ephesians, titled: If I Am In Christ.

Sunday, August 25th – Life In Christ (Ephesians 1:1-14)

Sunday, September 1st – Grateful For Grace (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Sunday, September 8th - One Body (Ephesians 4:1-13)

Sunday, September 15th – The Armor Of God (Ephesians 6:10-17)

As sinners living in a fallen world, people are constantly searching for their true identities. We look for it in our careers, our relationships, and our achievements. The problem is that it will never be found there. It is only when we are found in Christ that we begin to live in God's design for our lives.

On the first Sunday of this new series, we will reflect on how God created and designed us to be recipients of many spiritual blessings. Sin and brokenness often get in the way of fully embracing all that is available to us in Christ. The key for all human beings is living "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:1). For if we are in Christ then we are chosen, adopted, redeemed, purposed, and sealed. That is the life that God wants for every person. In fact, that is what we each were designed for.

The second week of our series on Ephesians we will consider how we are God's handiwork, created in order to do good works that He planned for us to take part in. These good works are not done in order to receive the love of God, rather, these good works are the result of God's good grace toward us (Ephesians 2:8-10). We should live lives of gratitude because we are loved by God as His beloved creation.

Truly, we who trust in Jesus Christ our Savior live blessed, meaningful, and peace filled lives in Him. So may the Lord guide you, His dearly loved child, as you invite others to learn more about the benefits of living in Him (Ephesians 1:1).

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

August 2024

8:15am Traditional Worship In-Church & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School all ages 10:00am WZDK 98.5 FM Radio 10:45am CrossLife in the ARC

> Holy Communion August 4, 18

Staffed Nursery 8am until noon

Sunday Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study Sundays 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 9:45am

Weekday Bible Studies

Wednesday 10:30am 1 Samuel Wednesdays 6:00pm Book of Hebrews Thursday, August 22, 6:30pm Women's Bible study Saturday, August 10, 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast Saturday, August 17, 11am Daniel study

Looking Ahead

Preschool Orientation Thursday, August 1 6-8pm School begins August 7

KTT Paint Party Fundraiser August 9 6-8pm

Rally Day is August 18 Blessing of the Backpacks

FaithLinks resumes August 21

Theme for 2024:
"Spreading the Gospel of God's Grace"

Verse for 2024: "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)





St. Paul's Family,

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

Summer is coming to an end and a new school year is about to begin which means St. Paul's Fall Activities are about to begin!

To start us off, our **Rally Day is on Sunday, August 18th**, where we will have a Backpack and Teacher Blessing at both services. During Sunday School we will be together in the gym for our lesson and we will have Ice Cream Sundaes!

Then, **Wednesday**, **August 21st**, we will be kicking off FaithLinks (our Wednesday Night Activities with a meal beginning at 5:30pm and then all our classes will begin at 6:15pm. For children we will be in the gym playing games!

I'm so excited to begin our different Fall activities and hope you're excited too! If you would like to be a part of any of these activities, even if you don't have children, we'd love to have you! And if you're interested in volunteering with either Sunday School or FaithLinks please let me know!

God's Blessings, Skylar Smith, DCE



Save the date for VBS June 23-27, 2025



VBS 2025

Enduring Faith

August Sunday School Lessons

8/4 - A Walking Wonder: Peter and John Heal a Man Who Can't Walk 8/11 - A Centurion Converts: Peter and Cornelius

8/18 - Rally Day

8/25 - A Jail Bail: Peter Escapes Prison



Join us Sunday, August 18th, for Rally Day at St. Paul's!

Backpack and Teacher Blessing at both services! Special Children's Sunday School at 9:30am with Ice Cream Sundaes!



FAITHLINK ACTIVITIES HAPPENING EVERY WEDNESDAY:

DINNER - 5:30PM - FELLOWSHIP ROOM

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES - 6:15PM - ARC/GYM

NURSERY - 6:15PM - RM 101

BIBLE STUDY - 6:15PM - RM 317

THE ANCHOR

St. Paul's Young Adults

August 17 | 6:30pm | Game Night FRI September 6 | 6:35pm | Baseball Game To receive information and reminders text "@yaanchor" to 81010

Bible Reading Challenge

August - Promises from the Promise Keeper

Join our 2024 Bible Reading Challenge! These daily readings look at verses that focus on a different theme every month. These verses may only take a few seconds to read, but we encourage you to read them multiple times throughout the day and spend time in prayer with God over the verses. We also encourage you, if you have the time, to READ MORE! These verses are a starting point!

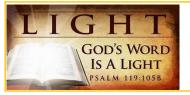
Day 1: Isaiah 40:29
Day 2: Isaiah 43:2
Day 3: Isaiah 40:31
Day 4: Deuteronomy 31:8
Day 5: Joshua 1:9
Day 6: Psalm 23:4
Day 7: Philippians 4:6-7
Day 8: Proverbs 3:5-6
Day 9: Matthew 6:31-33
Day 10: 2 Corinthians 9:8
Day 11: Psalm 34:10
Day 12: Romans 8:32
Day 13: Matthew 11:28-30
Day 14: John 8:12
Day 15: John 10:10

Day 16: John 15:5

Day 17: John 14:27 Day 18: Mark 11:24 Day 19: James 1:5 Day 20: Psalm 37:4 Day 21: Jeremiah 29:12 Day 22: Psalm 145:18 Day 23: 1 John 1:9

Day 24: 2 Chronicles 7:14
Day 25: Proverbs 29:25
Day 26: Isaiah 41:10
Day 27: Psalm 32:7
Day 28: Psalm 32:8
Day 29: Psalm 34:17-18
Day 30: Matthew 28:20
Day 31: Exodus 14:14

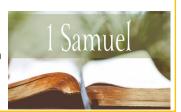
You can pick up a monthly bookmark at church, like our Church Facebook page to get the daily reading (and be sure to Like and Share the reading for the day so that your friends can see them too!), or text "@stpaulsbrc" to 81010 to get text message reminders.



Here are several studies along with our 2024 Bible Reading Challenge on page 2 to help us be in His Word and in His light!

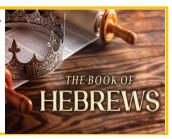
Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, August 7, we will read 1 Samuel! We hope you can join us Wednesday Mornings at 10:30am in Room 318! Talk to Skylar



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 9:30am and Wednesday at 6pm in Room 317

Join us for an interesting and lively discussion.

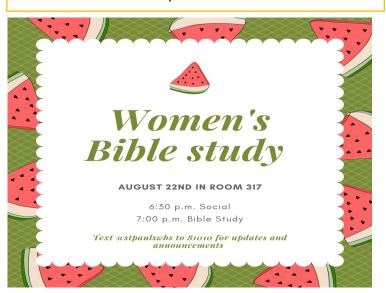


Men's Bible Breakfast
Saturday, August 10
7:30am

Daniel Bible Study
Saturday, August 17
11:00am

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study:

Mormons: Who They Are, What They Believe
The Mormon Church (aka The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints) means different things to different people. From its feel-good, family-oriented TV commercials to its Grammy- and Emmy-winning Mormon Tabernacle Choir to its bicycling missionaries, the Mormon Church is high profile all the way. Founded in the early 19th century, this religious movement boasts more than 15 million members and 85,000 missionaries, ranking it in the top five of "Christian denominations" in the U.S., according to the National Council of Churches. Join us on Sunday mornings starting at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Room for a Lutheran Hour Ministries video enhanced study on who Mormons are and what they believe.







Adult Confirmation Class

Wednesdays at 8pm
In-person and by Zoom
Talk to Pastor for more
information





Looking Ahead

LWML Fundraiser Brats Dinner

Sunday, October 6

Ticket Presale for the dinner will begin in mid September

KTT Paint Party

Fundraiser supporting Earn to Learn.

Friday, August 9 from 6-8pm

\$25. covers all art supplies, lightly sketched canvas and light refreshments. Contact Ms Charlotte for tickets.



and Flex Classes Pilates Fusion

Classes

Stretch

All classes are Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Stretch and Flex classes are at 8:30 in the gym and 11:00 in the YAC. This class combines many areas of fitness and is adaptable to many fitness levels. We work around a chair and finish sitting using small weights and resistance bands.

Pilates Fusion meets in the gym at 9:30. This class combines cardio, resistance training and Pilates.

For more information please call Chonita at 256-303-0098.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
28 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship		30 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting	31 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	1 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00pm PS orientation	2	3
4 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 10:00am LWML Meeting	6 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education meeting	7 8:45am Preschool (W-Th) 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (W-F) 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	8 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	Party fundr	10 7:30am Men's Bible study breakfast 1:00pm KTT "Be U" event
11 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:30am Rev Doroh 50th Anniversary at COR 10:45am CrossLife Worship	7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th)	13 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 7:00pm Vestry meeting	14 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	15 Newsletter deadline 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	16	17 11:00am Daniel study 6:30pm Young Adult Game Night
18 Rally Day & Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship† 5:00pm HS Youth Night	8:45am Preschool (M-Th)	20 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Preschool Board meeting 7:00pm Fellowship board meeting	21 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	22 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Women's Bible study	23	24
25 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship	8:45am Preschool (M-Th)	27 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting	28 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Bible study 7:00pm Praise Band 8:00pm Adult Confirmation	29 8:30 9:30 & 11 Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	30	31



August birthdays

Aug 1 Tristan Ringers Aug 3 Denise Thrasher Aug 6 Karin Burtram Aug 6 Tammy Corlew Aug 7 Jeanna Stephens Aug 8 Noa Becerra Aug 8 Jeanine Compton Aug 8 Mike Parson

Aug 8 Michelle Smitherman

Aug 10 Drew Reichenbach Aug 10 Brayden Wright

Aug 12 Terry Raemhild Aug 13 Farrah Locker

Aug 13 Maribeth Morgan

Aug 15 PJ Corlew

Aug 16 Heather Braswell

Aug 16 James Frick

Aug 17 Pedro Santaliz

Aug 19 Heather Atkins

Aug 19 Don Olson

Aug 23 Katelyn Kimmett Aug 24 Greg Armentrout

Aug 24 Faye Atkins

Aug 24 Elesia Reinhardt

Aug 25 Darius Burch

Aug 25 Shawn Holder

Aug 25 Vickie Sautter

Aug 25 Regina Smith

Aug 26 Dean Byer

Aug 26 Skylar Schmelter

Aug 27 Doug Anderson

Aug 28 Liam McNa

Aug 29 Mercedes Ferguson

Aug 29 James Gilchrist

Aug 29 Ron Johnson

Aug 31 Liam Cevallos



Rich & Donna Maschke

Jeff & Leesa Pittman Aug 2

Aug 5 Bob & Sue Sullivant

Aug 18 Brian & Michele Braswell

Aug 18 Drew & Rebecca Reichenbach

Aug 22 Sam & Zana Michelfelder

God's Blessings on your Special Day!



The Flower Calendar for 2024 is up in the breezeway. Sign up early for your special day!



Jo Whetsel, who lives in Ohio and collects soda can tabs, will be visited by a St. Paul's Elder in August. Bring your tabs to church by August 4, and they will be taken to her.



Why is there a wagon wheel on fire in the stained glass window above the altar in the Sanctuary? The answer will be given at a "tour of the church windows and her symbols" coming Saturday, October 5.

We are a community

A recent survey of new Lutherans said that most people join a Lutheran church because they see us as a historic community. That means that we care about each other, respect each other, are not judgmental, and tie our life together with the past (both in our way of worship and in what we believe).



New Library Arrivals

The Bondage of the Will by Martin Luther is what he called his "greatest work." He proved from the Bible that the human will is not free enough to "accept Jesus Christ as Lord" and so we cannot save ourselves, but that we are saved completely by God's grace on account of Christ.

Religious Poems from 1886 has many poems that strike a chord with us today. Poems like "Keep me calm, my God, and keep me calm," and "My little doves have left a nest" could have been written yesterday.

These books are donated from the Hornish Family Library in memory and in honor of Beth Hornish to the glory of God. Find them on the "New Arrivals" desk in the church library.



Outreach Project

Thank you to everyone who contributes and prays for the visitors to our Blessing Box!

Please help to keep the Blessing Box stocked by placing non-perishable items in the Blessing Box or in the collection box under the Portico at the Sanctuary entrance.



Help support fundraising for "The Cross of North Alabama." IN MEMORY DONNA G. SMITH 1950 - 2020

Go to the website and buy a brick and leave a legacy. These will be placed around the base of the cross. They are available in 4 X 8 for \$150 or 8 X 8 for \$400. The landscaping phase is now in progress. What a blessing it has already been to many. Thanks to all who support this symbol of God's love!!



Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church invites you to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Rev David A Doroh

The service to give thanks for Pastor Doroh's 50 years of ministry will be on Sunday, August 11 at 10:30am. A potluck dinner will follow the service, and as a guest you are not expected to bring anything. We hope that you can join us for this special occasion. Please RSVP to David or Dorie Doroh at 256-740-7475 or 256-284-0292 so that we can have a count for planning purposes. No gifts please. The address of the church is: 721 Pickens St SW Hartselle, AL 35640

Serving the Lord in Worship this Month at St. Paul's									
		August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25				
Elders	8:15am	Mitchell Whiteside	Mike Johnson	Joseph Woodbury	Bill Darwin				
Ushers	8:15am	Rick Daniel Jack Blaske Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Mike Ater Bob Seibert Mike Johnson Jeff Pittman	Graham Peebles Michael Kimmett Mathew Kimmett	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Micky Whiteside Mike Widmar				
Acolytes	8:15am	Oliver	Ben	Oliver	Ben				
A/V Techs	8:15am	Rich Maschke	Rich Maschke	Rich Maschke	Rich Maschke				
Readers	8:15am	Jeff Pittman	Mitchell Whiteside	Open	Mitchell Whiteside				
Sanctuary Flowers Maschke		Open	Open	Open					
Altar Guild for August : Melinda Baker and Melanie McNa Counters for August: Leesa Pittman and Sue Bosco									
Elders	10:45am	Gary Nagy	Tim Herfurth	Mike Johnson	Tim Herfurth				
Host families	10:45am	Ballentine family	Burrell family	Herfurth family	McRae family				
A/V Techs	10:45am	Rick & Carol Morgan	James Gilchrist	Tim Herfurth	Mike Ringers				



St Paul's Quilters meet in Room 317 each Wednesday at 10am. Join us! For more information contact Pete Alvis at 256.616.1774.



AV volunteers needed for the 8:15am service. Training will be provided. Please contact Bob Sullivant or Rich Maschke.



Are you willing to serve? We are in need of one more usher for the 8:15am service. Please see Tim Nave if you can help.



Sign up to read once a month or as an occasional substitute.
Training provided.
Please call Sue Bosco.



Come and Knit or crochet with us!
Work on your own project or
special church projects. We have
patterns and yarn galore!
Meet us in the parlor
every Thursday at 11am.
Bring a friend!



Help wanted setting up for the 10:45am service each Sunday. Meet in the gym at 10:15am if you can assist with setup.



2024 Year-to-Date Average Attendance In-church attendees 133 Facebook sign-ins 12



Current Loan Balance: \$212,048
Endowment Fund Balance: \$14,726

Financial Plan Activity thru June 30, 2024

YTD FirstFruits Giving: \$212,896 PLAN: \$225,000
YTD Total Expenses: - \$235,833 PLAN: \$247,145

Plan Activity thru June - \$ 22,938



St. Paul's Ladies!!

Please join us on Saturday, September 7, from 10am - 12 Noon for our Women's Prayer Brunch. We will gain more understanding of God's Word regarding His Grace, Mercy, and Peace. It will also be a wonderful time for fellowship and the singing of special hymns. Brunch will be hosted by the

Lutheran Woman's Missionary League members. There is no cost associated with this event. Childcare will be provided with a free-will offering. We are hoping to see you there! Seating is limited. Please RSVP by August 24th.

For more information and to RSVP contact Judy Nagy 219-688-2882 or Sue Bosco 256-565-6300

St Paul's Lutheran Preschool 2023-2024







































This month is all about **Back to School**



Pizza day will be Thursday, August 25th. Children will not need to bring a lunch.



July 29th-August 6th is Extended Care only. No Preschool.



Mark your calendar for Orientation/Meet MEET THE the Teacher Night on Thursday, August 1st **TEACHER** 6:00-8:00 p.m.



First day of school for 2024-2025 school year is Wednesday, August 7th.



We will be closed Monday, September 5th for Labor Day.



The Preschool has openings for a 3-yr-old and 4-yr-old PreK4 students. Anyone interested can come by for a tour and paperwork.

For more info and pictures of activities, please visit www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec.Preschool



Afterschool Care

KTT Fundraiser



Paint Party Fundraiser

Supporting Earn to Learn

we are hosting a fundraiser to help raise funds for the Earn to Learn reading program. The sale of the party tickets will help to buy more books, supplies, and help support the program for the next school year. The paint party host will be Raven Mobiley, director of the Earn to Learn program and professional artist.

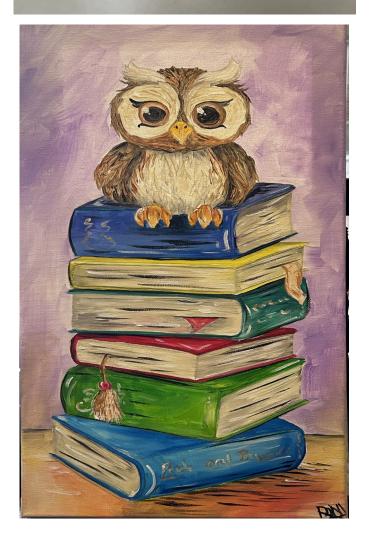
Ticket Price. \$25.00 (cost covers all art supplies, lightly sketched canvas, and light refreshments)

Date, Time, and Location: August 9, 2024 600

Pm-8:00 Pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1700 Carradale St. SW

* Tickets can be purchased from Mrs. Charlotte or Mrs. Raven



Community Service Project





Our nine and ten year old class decided to bring food on their own volition for the Blessing Box, after inquiring about what it was for. Some was saved to add at a later date.

Fall registration is in progress for the 2024-2025 school year. Register your child today! School resumes Aug 7th, space is limited!



Charlotte Bradley, Director, KTT Inc (256) 666-8601

For more info and pictures of activities, please visit https://www.facebook.com/KidzTweenzTeenzInc/



St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1700 Carridale St SW Decatur AL 35601

www.StPaulsDec.com www.Facebook.com/StPaulsDec



Sunday August 18 at 9:30

Blessing of the Backpacks and all Teachers



Wednesday Night Dinners

resume August 21 at 5:30pm



The calls you receive are from (256) 353-8759 on your Caller ID and identified as "St. Paul's Lutheran Church."

Please let the Church Office know if you would like to receive our 1Call announcements and are currently not signed up.



ChurchOffice@StPaulsDec.com





"Great Promises of God" Sermon Series

Sunday, July 28 – Strength for the Weak (Isaiah 42:3) Sunday, August 4 – Protection for the Oppressed (Isaiah 54:17) Sunday, August 11 – Comfort for Believers (John 14:26) Sunday, August 18 – Eternal Life for Jesus' Sheep (John 10:27-28)