

STATISTICS

ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|------------|---------|----|
| 10/29/2023 | 8:30 A | 36 |
| | 11:00 A | 60 |
| 11/05/2023 | 8:30 A | 46 |
| | 11:00 A | 58 |
| 11/12/2023 | 8:30 A | 27 |
| | 11:00 A | 44 |
| 11/19/2023 | 8:30 A | 43 |
| | 11:00 A | 64 |
| 11/26/2023 | 8:30 A | 35 |
| | 11:00 A | 43 |

STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 10/29/2023 | Current | \$ 10,919.83 |
| | Invest in St. Paul's | 75.00 |
| 11/05/2023 | Current | \$ 15,273.40 |
| | Invest in St. Paul's | 75.00 |
| 11/12/2023 | Current | \$ 2,215.00 |
| | Invest in St. Paul's | 175.00 |
| 11/19/2023 | Current | \$ 2,864.00 |
| | Invest in St. Paul's | 150.00 |
| 11/26/2023 | Current | \$ 1,894.00 |
| | Invest in St. Paul's | 75.00 |

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 TO: ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 10 WEST 31ST STREET
 SAVANNAH, GA 31401



St. Paul's Epistle

December 3, 2023

Note From The Pastor



The lyrics to an old John Lennon song started out like this, "And so this is Christmas..."

The day and season mean many different things of people all over the world. In some places there is no mention of Jesus and in others no mention of Santa Claus. My grandmother had a special room that was off limits to us a few weeks before Christmas. We were told that if we entered the room Santa would know and our presents would be taken away.

None of the cousins wanted to chance getting caught but we did try to look in the space with flashlights when no one was watching over us.

The shepherds and wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to see the baby that would change the world.

They had to be shocked that so much effort was put into getting them to the right spot only to find a baby in a manger with animals hanging around.

I've always said that Christmas is not a one-day event but an everyday gift from God. What we find in the manger depends on how our day is going. There is joy, peace, forgiveness, hope and love, above all love.

When we open the gifts under the tree it is fun and exciting to see what other people have got you. When we open the gift that is in our heart it is life changing. Merry Christmas pjh

Important Phone Numbers

Pastor Hartmann (Cell) 912-713-7145

Donald Martin (Cell) 912-659-8157

Like us on Facebook...Search "Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church"

Email: saintpauls@bellsouth.net Instagram: @StPaulsLutheran

NOTES

Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is upon us. Daytime Advent Services are at 11am on Wednesdays starting on the 29th of November.

Lots of activities so check the bulletin and newsletter.

Christmas Eve is on the 24th of December.

10am Christmas Program

6:30pm and 10pm Candlelight Communion Services

Sunday the 31st of December will be one Service at 10am

The Sympathy of the Congregation is extended to Dan Flood and the Family at the death of Nancy. Services were on Sunday, November 19th.

Minutes of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting of November 16, 2023

Council Members Present: Andy Foose, Toni Hadden, Chuck McCallar, Lisa Neville, Drew Schwalbe, Bill Wiggins, and Mickie Waldhauer. Also present: Donald Martin and Pastor Hartmann Absent: Christian Flashman and Pat Sparks. Bill Wiggins opened the meeting at 6:00. Lisa Neville gave the Devotion. October meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved. Will be submitted for Epistle publication.

Pastor's Report: Report attached. Highlights include visitations in homes, hospitals, and nursing homes, Confirmation will resume on Sundays at 9:45am in the Chapel with two students. November 4th Work Day went well. Daytime Advent Services will start November 29th at 11:00 am. Cast is lining up for annual Christmas play to be performed Sunday, December 24th at 10:00am. Pastor announced the passing of Nancy Flood. Nancy's funeral will be Sunday afternoon November 19th. Pastor is spending Thanksgiving in Chicago returning November 26th. Bill Wiggins will lead Service that Sunday.

Director of Music: Donald Martin reported that Tri Church will be held with Catholic church and Greek church participating. St Paul's will host event with Greeks hosting the reception. Bill Wiggins will provide lunch for all the choirs on this day. Hopes are to include the Baptists next year.

St. Paul's Christmas Angels

As we approach the End of the Year, I once again am looking for "Angels" to offer an extra \$1,000 Gift above their regular levels of giving to help me close the year in the "positive." However, any gift is accepted and no one will ever know the amount of your additional sacrifice. Thanking you for another Great Year of Blessings! Donald



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA

We would like to give all members an opportunity to place a Poinsettia in the church this Christmas in honor and/or in memory of loved ones.

The plants will be ordered through the church at a cost of **\$15.00** each. This price includes tax and delivery.

If you would like to place a Poinsettia, please complete the form below and return to the church office no later than December 17th

PLEASE ATTACH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

I wish to donate a Poinsettia which will adorn the Chancel for the services of Christmas, to the Glory of God and be:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____

(Please list exactly as you would like it shown in the Bulletin and use the back for additional space.)

____ I will pick up my plant after the 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service or during the following week for my own enjoyment, or I'll take to a neighbor or a shut-in.

Vanco E-Giving

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

Let us first begin by expressing gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards your church.

Your on-going contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our church and our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJQW> or scan the QR code below with your smart phone and follow the link.

Whether you choose to give online, by mail or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

If you have any questions, please just ask and again, Thank You for all that you do for St. Paul's.

Blessings,

Donald Martin, Jr.
Treasurer



Minutes continued

Treasurer: Bank balance of \$19,617.70 is in checking for operations and \$35,000 in savings. No monies were moved for expenses in October due to two monetary gifts given. Online giving began November 5th with a light participation. SCAD is continuing their quarterly rent payments for the use of the gym. Other renters include Veritas Academy, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and a local fencing club.

Day Care balances: operation account balance \$24,000; savings balance \$84,000, Students enrolled to date total 65-70. Day Care still ranks 3rd or 4th in the city in terms of reputation.

Donald is still awaiting quotes from a local commercial insurance broker to find coverage due to Church Mutual cancelling our policy. Quotes to date have come in less than expected but higher than previous premium to Church Mutual. Expects to have final quotes by mid-December.

Lisa Neville questioned if publishing Memorial gifts to the church in the Epistle might generate more giving. Donald was not sure why the donor publications were stopped but will coordinate with Fran and Betsy to possibly resume the publishing.

Property: Andy Foose thanked all who participated in "Congregation" workday. Bill & George Wiggins pressure washed lane side of church. Other minor repairs throughout the property were handled by Pastor, Andy & Erin Foose, Billy Sparks, Richard Wolf, and Lisa & Ricky Neville. Hopes are to schedule another workday in the Spring. Richard Wolf obtained a bid of \$19,000 to refinish the wood exterior doors of the church. Richard and Donald will explore other options such as refinishing the 31st Street doors and replacing the other doors with steel doors. The courtyard gate has been constructed and will replace old gate in the next few weeks.

Social Ministry: See Bulletin or Epistle for the times and dates for Caroling, Family Advent Evening, and Christmas Eve Services. There are many great opportunities which are scheduled in December.

Old Business: Covered in previous reports above.

New Business: Council nominees presented to replace outgoing members Pat Sparks, Mickie Wadhauer, and Toni Hadden are Kim Screen, Richard Wolf, and Joey Barnard. Motion was made and seconded to accept this slate of nominees. Motion passed. These nominees will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting November 19th.

Thanksgiving gift bag delivery will be delayed until November 26th.

There being no further Business meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M. with Pastor giving a prayer.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Lisa B. Neville, Secretary

**Minutes of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting of October 26, 2023**

Council Members Present: Andy Foose, Toni Hadden, Chuck McCallar, Lisa Neville, Pat Sparks, Bill Wiggins, and Mickie Waldhauer. Also present: Donald Martin and Pastor Hartmann Absent: Christian Flathman and Drew Schwalbe. Bill Wiggins opened the meeting at 6:00. Chuck McCallar gave the Devotion. September meeting Minutes were approved via email and submitted for Epistle publication.

Pastor's Report: Report attached. Highlights include Pastors Meeting, visitations in homes, hospitals, and nursing homes, Confirmation will resume on Sundays at 9:45am in the Chapel with Zoe Shinall is our only student. Bible Study will continue through week prior to Thanksgiving. No Bible Study in December as Advent Service will be held on Wednesdays. Funeral services were held for Terry Sheldahl 9/23, AJ Lungwitz 9/30, Barbara White 10/9 (sister of Neola Reid), and Betty Miles (10/19). Pastor thanked Bill Wiggins for subbing on October 15th.

Director of Music: Tri Church will be held with Catholic church and Greek church participating. Hopes are to include Baptist next year; Donald will make contact after first of the year to extend an invitation. Our full brass will also participate. Caroling to nursing homes will be 12/17 with trolley transportation.

Treasurer: Report Attached. Bank balance of \$19,714.56 is in checking for operations. Online giving will begin 11/5. 2024 Budget was reviewed with very little change from 2023 other than increase in utilities and payroll taxes. 2023 Budget was \$459,525 and 2024 Budget presented is \$466,675. Bill made a motion to adopt 2024 Budget as presented. Chuck McCallar seconded. Motion passed to accept 2024 as presented.

Day Care balances: operation account \$40,821.89; savings \$80,265, Students enrolled to date total 60. Playground renovations are presently on hold.

Donald is awaiting quotes from a local commercial insurance broker to find coverage due to Church Mutual cancelling our policy. Quotes are expected to be high due to our location, the Trolley Car Historic District, and our facilities.

Property: Andy Foose has set Saturday, November 4th as "Congregation" workday to handle minor repairs throughout the property. The cause of Ladies Room in Hoffner Hall leaks were discovered to be the rusting hood vent in kitchen. The water came in the hood area and traveled the rafter to ladies' room. The courtyard gate is scheduled for repair. All exterior doors at Hoffner Hall have been replaced courtesy of John Shealey with shatterproof glass. Herman Grotheer has offered to have the wood exterior doors of the church refinished in memory of his father.

Social Ministry: Bill reported that 110 have signed up for meals of hot dogs and hamburgers while the day care has Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot.

Old Business: Covered in previous reports above.

New Business: Thanksgiving gift bags will be assembled after Thanksgiving lunch on November 19th.

There being no further Business meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M. with Pastor giving a prayer.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Lisa B. Neville, Secretary

Prayer Requests

Our Prayers are requested for: Kevin Boatright, Ronnie & Delores Boatright, Angie Briggs, Florence Brown, Tom Brown, Jean Camp, Janet Gnann, Garrison Hadden, Virginia Huber, Don Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Dottie Kraft, Ann Lariscy, Lamar Linton, George Martin Sr., Joan Martin, Leonora Reid, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Shearouse, Mary Sikes, Charlie Smith, Barbara & Tim Tyson, and Melissa Waller.

WELCA

For the month of December WELCA will collecting the following:

Family or baby supplies, household items or monetary donations for Shelter from the Rain. They provide assistance to single mothers. A printed list will be placed in the Narthex.

Generic or Walmart gift cards in \$20 increments for Park Place Outreach, an emergency shelter for displaced or homeless older teens and young adults.

The December Circle 19 meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6:00pm at Lisa Neville's home. It will be a covered dish meal. Please RSVP to Donna Wall so Lisa will have a head count.



December 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Dottie Kraft 12/1 Ronnie Boatright 12/1 Nancy Brown 12/9 Dudley New, Sr 12/15 Woody Reid 12/17 Pauline Dyches 12/27 | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Advent 1 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion 5:00 P Family Advent night | 4 | 5 | 6 11:00 A Advent Service 6:00 P Choir | 7 9:00 A Craft Group | 8 12:00 Noon Etc/ Wayfarers | 9 |
| 10 Advent 2 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion 4:00 P Tri Church | 11 | 12 | 13 11:00 A Advent Service 6:00 P Choir | 14 9:00 A Craft Group | 15 Poinsettia orders due today | 16 |
| 17 Advent 3 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion 2:30 P Christmas Caroling and dinner | 18 | 19 | 20 11:00 A Advent Service 6:00 P Choir | 21 9:00 A Craft Group 5:30P Exec.Comm. 6:00P Church Council | 22 * EPISTLE DEADLINE | 23 * Articles for the Epistle must be in the Church Office to make the mail out by the following Wednesday. |
| 24 Advent 4 /Christmas Eve 10:00 A Sunday School Christmas Program 6:30 P Candlelight Service 10:00 P Candlelight Service | 25 Christmas Day Church office closed | 26 | 27 | 28 9:00 A Craft Group | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Christmas 1 10:00 A Lessons & Carols | Jan. 1 New Year's Day Church office closed | | | | | |

December Altar Guild

8:30 Natasha Smith
11:00 Lisa Neville and Donna Wall

Communion Assistants

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 8:30 | 11:00 |
| Chris Conway | Toni Hadden |
| Kim Conway | Richard Wolf |

Christmas Eve -6:30 Hunter & Julia Hadden, Garrison Hadden, Toni Hadden, Richard Wolf, Pastor

10:00 Chuck McCallar, Jared McCallar, Janet Gnann, Bill Wiggins, George Wiggins, Pastor

Lectors

| | | |
|--------|---|----------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| Dec 3 | Bill Wiggins | Rick Gnann |
| Dec 10 | Emma Levy | Chuck McCallar |
| Dec 17 | Charlie Schafer | Mary Gail Wolf |
| Dec 24 | 10A – Sunday School Program 6:30 & 10:00 P Ricky Truluck | |
| Dec 31 | 10:00 A Charlie Schafer and Melissa Flummerfelt | |

Volunteers Needed

Altar Guild - help set communion up before both services. If you are interested, please contact Becky Truluck at 912-655-6196.

Lectors/Communion Assistants (8:30 or 11:00) – anyone interested please contact Janet Gnann @ 912-656-5771

Ushers (8:30 or 11:00) – anyone interested please contact Ricky Neville @ (912)355-1601

Acolytes & Crucifers (8:30 or 11:00) – interested youth should contact Debra Barnard at 912-228-0200

Altar Flowers

Sandfly Flower Shop will now be handling our altar arrangements. If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar, please contact Sherill Martin, 912-677-6115. If the date is available, the donor will be responsible for calling the florist prior to the date and making the payment.

Advent Season at St. Paul's

Wednesday, November 29th

First Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

Thursday, November 30th

WELCA / Craft Group - Decorate Chrismon Trees - 9AM

Sunday, December 3rd

Lighting of the First Advent Candle - 8:30 & 11:00
Family Advent Night - 5:00 PM Evening Meal
Devotion, Crafts & Gingerbread House Competition

Wednesday, December 6th

Second Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

Sunday, December 10th

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle - 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Tri-Church Christmas Festival - 4PM
Reception at the Greek Church Hellenic Center - 5PM

Wednesday, December 13th

Third Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

Sunday December 17th

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle - 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Christmas Caroling - 2:30 PM - 6:30 - See Donald to Signup

Wednesday, December 20th

Fourth Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle - 10:00 AM
One 10 AM Service - Sunday School Christmas Play

Two Evening Services

Candlelight Communion Services
w/ Choirs, Violin, Organ & Brass - 6:30 PM & 10:00 PM

New Year's Eve, Sunday December 31st

One Service of Lessons & Carols
Worship w/ our Chancel Choir - 10:00 AM