



St. Paul's Epistle

February 4, 2024

Note From The Pastor



"We are dust and to dust we shall return" is a phrase most of us are familiar with by now. Fat Tuesday in New Orleans will be history and the clean up of the mess left by thousands of party goers begins,

We are reminded that we were created out of nothing and will return to our creator at some point. Some leave too soon and some seem to be around forever. We are also reminded that we will always be sinners and thank God for sending Jesus to clean up the mess (our sins).

Some people want to give up something for the Lenten season and that is fine but not necessary. I once gave up ice cream which was torture and I was going to fail at giving it up until I found out that Dairy Queen soft serve is not technically ice cream. My peanut buster parfait was back in my life.

There is no need to be sad during the season, just be thankful and try to love more than you did. Pjh

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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

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Announcements

Ash Wednesday is the 14th of February with two services - 11am in the Chapel and 6:30pm in the Church.

Lenten Services will continue on Wednesdays at 11am in the Chapel throughout the season.

Minutes of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting of January 18, 2024

Council Members Present: Joey Barnard, Andy Foose, Chuck McCallar, Lisa Neville, Bill Wiggins, and Richard Wolf. Also present: Donald Martin and Pastor Hartmann Absent: Drew Schwalbe and Kim Screen. Bill Wiggins opened the meeting at 6:05 and gave the Devotion. Following the devotion, offices were elected for the coming council year. President: Bill Wiggins; Vice President; Andy Foose; Secretary: Lisa Neville; and Treasurer; Donald Martin, Jr.

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. Thanksgiving meal was well attended. Busy holiday season with Family Advent Night, Tri Church Festival, Pre-School Christmas Program, and "The Frog King" play. January began with Pet Blessing with 12 pets attending. Also attended Wayfarers on December 8th and January 12th. Funerals for Nancy Flood on November 19th, Henry Precht on December 20th, Virginia Huber on December 29th, and Betty Shepherd on January 8th were held.

Director of Music: Donald Martin reported that Choir had completed a rigorous Advent and Christmas Season but currently is at a lower number of members than in past years due to deaths this past year and some older members retiring. Donald once again thanked Carl Lettow for his past 15 years of service to the Chancel Choir. Carl retired this past Christmas Eve but will remain in the congregation with Faye to be a faithful worshipper from the "pew".

Treasurer: Donald reported in two phases. Part I: The Church has a current bank balance of \$26,535.42 in checking for operations and \$17,794.23 in savings. He noted that the operations account is lower due to first quarter insurance premium payments of \$23,000. The bottom line is that we need an increase in offerings with more members attending services in person to aid in an increase in offerings.

Minutes continued on next page

Minutes cont.

Donald reported that with the present gym rental collections, upcoming needed repairs, general maintenance and utilities are only at a "break even" point and there are no provisions for additional major upgrades which will be needed in the coming year, the reserve maintenance account has been almost depleted. The Finance Committee determined the church would be in a better position to explore the possibility of releasing this portion of our portfolio of properties for a sale in the future. The council recommended that the first step would be to obtain an appraisal to establish if this recommendation would be a viable option and then revisit the subject in February. Donald noted that a full congregational vote would be needed to place the gym on the real estate market if the Finance Committee and Council considered this to be the best for the longevity of the church body. A Motion was made and accepted to move forward in an exploratory effort to begin with an appraisal to be made on the property and facility with a fee not to exceed \$5,000. Donald will move forward on obtaining an appraisal under these guidelines.

Part II: Day Care balances: operation account balance \$16,705; savings balance \$40,206, Students enrolled to date total 64 students. Donald expressed his concern with the operating balance for the Day Care. This balance is due to the 2021-2023 State of Georgia grant funding for use in supporting parents, teachers and operational needs due to the past COVID pandemic having expired in September. Donald is in communication with Janet Gnann to determine if another grant could be obtained or what efforts can be made to increase the number of students closer to a capacity in order to better support the Day Care operations. Currently there is a waiting list for babies to enroll. Pastor suggested the possibility of making additional room within the needed grades using vacated classroom space in Hoffner Hall as we did when the parish building was in mold remediation to ease the waiting list and expand our student base. Bill will communicate with Janet to aid in an action plan to keep Day Care on track.

Donald has sent \$12,000 to the Southeastern Synod from the Slater-Gertz Funds for Seminary Students as required by the dispersion directive for these two funds. This will complete the distribution for Seminary students for the 2022-2023 year and no additional funding will be available until the fourth quarter of 2024 from these two endowments.

Donald also reported that our 1957 Aeolin-Skinner, G. Donald Harrison organ is in need of approximately \$43,000 in maintenance of which we have monies within the Arnsdorff Organ Fund as bequeathed by Jack Arnsdorff in the early 2000's. This disbursement will not affect daily operational funding for church and will ensure the smooth operation of the instrument for worship services for the next several years.

Minutes continued under prayer requests

Prayer Requests

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

Minutes cont.

Property: Richard Wolf reported that courtyard gate has been replaced and church exterior doors have been refinished and weather varnished. HVAC units within the Epting Parish Building have been checked and he has requested that the HVAC company stock several of our motors to have on "standby" as that is usually the hold up for classroom unit repairs.

Richard also reported that Braddy Electric has replaced lights throughout the buildings. A plumbing leak caused some ceiling tiles to be replaced. Joey Barnard asked about the steeple leaks. Richard explained that most of those leaks are due to blowing rain and these are not connected to the repairs which were completed in the early spring of last year. Additional roofing and exterior work will need to be assessed in the coming months in order to continue to combat the leaking of the main sanctuary. The Building Committee will continue to assess and determine the best plan forward. Andy Foose is coordinating another Saturday workday for winter to address interior repairs that the workgroup could handle such as replacing more ceiling tiles and general building light maintenance for the second weekend in February.

Social Ministry: Bill announced that each month this year has an event planned for fellowship and, of course, food.

Old Business: Covered in previous reports above.

New Business: It was announced that Christian Flatman has moved to Auburn, Alabama. This creates a vacancy on the Council to fill his spot for the next two years. Bill encouraged the Council members to approach possible members and let him know if the candidates are interested. Following the closure of council, it was reported that Janet Gnann had agreed to fill this two year vacancy and act as the Day Care representative to council.

There being no further Business meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M. with Pastor giving a prayer.

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

February Altar Guild

8:30 Natasha Smith

11:00 Erin Foose/Lisa Neville

Communion Assistants

8:30

Janet Gnann

Lee Smith

11:00

Lisa Neville

Andy Foose

Lectors

8:30

Feb 3

Charlie Schafer

Feb 10

Dianne Fennell

Feb 14

Ash Wednesday

Feb 17

Emma Levy

Feb 24

Lisa Gnann

11:00

Chuck McCallar

Gene Henry

Kim Screen

Becky Truluck

Rick Gnann

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.

STATISTICS	ATTENDANCE	
12/31/2023	10:00 A	50
01/07/2024	8:30 A	40
	11:00 A	61
01/14/2024	8:30 A	36
	11:00 A	53
01/21/2024	10:00 A	30
	6:30 P	56

STEWARDSHIP	OFFERING	
12/31/2024	Current	\$ 1,532.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	75.00
01/07/2024	Current	\$ 4,368.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	175.00
01/14/2024	Current	\$ 3,460.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	335.00
01/21/2024	Current	\$ 1,866.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	50.00

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February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy Birthday Betty Sheppard 2/12 Dale Ienuso 2/17 Nancy Clarke 2/23 Billy Conaway 2/23				1 9:00 A Craft Group	2	3
4 Epiphany 5 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	5	6	7 11:00 A Bible Study 6:00 P Circle #19 6:00 P Choir	8 9:00 A Craft Group	9 12:00 Noon Etc./Wayfarers	10 * Articles for the Epistle must be in the Church Office to make the mail-out by the following Wednesday.
11 Transfiguration 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	12	13 5:15 P Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	14 11:00 A Ash Wednesday 6:30 P Ash Wednesday	15 9:00 A Craft Group 5:30 P Exec. Comm 6:00 P Church Council	16	17
18 Lent 1 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	19	20	21 11:00 A Lenten Service 6:00 P Choir	22 9:00 A Craft Group	23 *Epistle Deadline	24
25 Lent 2 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	26	27	28 11:00 A Lenten Service 6:00 P Choir	29 9:00 A Craft Group		

Shrove Tuesday Meal

Tuesday, February 13th

5:15 PM - 6:30 PM

Pancakes & Sausage



In
Hoffner
Hall

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Wednesday, February 14th



Midday Services

11:00 AM

In the

Henry J. Black
Memorial Chapel

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Evening Services

6:30 PM

In the
Sanctuary