



St. Paul's Epistle

October 6, 2024



Exciting News from Your Church Council

Church council voted to have one service at 10am on the first Sunday of the month beginning with 6 October 2024.

At 9am on the first Sundays Kim Screen will lead an educational time for children before Church begins at 10am.

Council's reason for the decision was so people from each service can meet.

The rest of the month continues with the normal service times of 8:30am and 11am.

Facebook continues for those who can't make any service.

Confirmation will be at 9am on first Sundays and 9:45 on all other Sundays.

On a personal note, most of us are creatures of habit and don't always like when our routines or schedules are interfered with especially something as important as our worship times. I personally apologize if this hurts you in any way. If you have any questions or concerns please give me a call. 912-713-7145. pjh

STATISTICS	ATTENDANCE	
09/01/2024	10:00 A	34
09/08/2024	8:30 A	43
	11:00 A	62
09/15/2024	8:30 A	31
	11:00 A	57
09/22/2024	8:30 A	29
	11:00 A	43

STEWARDSHIP	OFFERING	
09/01/2024	Current	\$ 2,216.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	00.00
09/08/2024	Current	\$ 7,063.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	25.00
09/15/2024	Current	\$ 3,124.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	00.00
09/22/2024	Current	\$ 2,543.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	175.00

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 SAVANNAH, GA 31401



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Important Phone Numbers

Pastor Hartmann (Cell) 912-713-7145

Donald Martin (Cell) 912-659-8157

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**Minutes of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran
Church Congregational Council Meeting of September 19, 2024**

Council Members Present: Joey Barnard , Andy Foose, Janet Gnann, Chuck McCallar, Lisa Neville, Drew Schwalbe, Kim Screen, Bill Wiggins, and Richard Wolf. Also present: Donald Martin and Pastor Hartmann Bill Wiggins opened the meeting at 6:10. Richard Wolf gave Devotion.

Pastor's Report: Report attached. Pastor reported that while he still recovering, he has been able to make some visits. Planning on officiating Diana Bertz's wedding on September 28th and Confirmation class will be October 6th for 7th & 8th graders. A SCAD professor is bringing two of their classes to visit our sanctuary to see our stained glass panes.

Director of Music: Donald Martin reported that the Choir is back in session and that Jared fits in nicely. Janet Gnann and Kim Screen agreed.

Treasurer: Donald reported the current bank balance of \$1,947.27 in checking for operations. A transfer from savings of \$25,000 was made to pay bills adding to the \$25,000 moved in two increments earlier this month. Our cash savings balance at present is \$42,873.50 which has portions earmarked for organ repairs and includes \$10,000 in Earnest Money as a deposit on the sale of the gym. Current Truist Endowment funds has a balance of \$899,844.04 spread over 10 earmarked funds.

The real estate Gym closing is anticipated within the next 30-60 days. The purchaser's loan has been tentatively approved and the closing is awaiting funding from the State of Georgia through (SBAC). As part of the closing the council was asked to approve two Resolutions which Donald read aloud. The first Resolution was to verify that the property is indeed the property St. Paul's is selling, and the church is who we say we are. The Motion was made by Richard Wolf to accept the Resolution as read, Chuck McCallar Seconded and Council Approved. The second Resolution was clarifying the titled name of the Seller of the property. The Motion was made by Richard Wolf to accept the Resolution as read, Andy Foose Seconded and Council Approved.

Donald reported that we are approaching a very uncomfortable period in our church's history with weekly offerings no longer supporting even the most conservative of operational budgets. With this said, even selling of the gym and apportioning the proceeds of the gym to savings, differed major maintenance and basic ministry expenses, the proceeds could be exhausted within twelve to eighteen months at the most if the savings have to continually subsidize the lack of weekly offerings.

He went on to articulate that approximately \$327,000.00 of the proceeds from the sale of the gym will be used to cancel the debt currently held by Synovus Bank on mortgaged property which will leave approximately \$950,000 from the gym sale to be apportioned as previously discussed into savings, basic ministry needs, weekly operations and differed maintenance of the main church structure.

Preschool's operations bank balance is \$3,837.46 and Savings \$8102.11

Announcement

**There will be one Service at 10am on Sunday, October 6.
Sunday School will be at 9am.**



Our Prayers are requested for: Kevin Boatright, Ronnie & Delores Boatright, Angie Briggs, Florence Brown, Tom Brown, Jean Camp, Alice Ann Duggar, Miriam Fulton, Frances Graff, Pastor Hartmann, Gene Henry, Don Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Ann Lariscy, George Martin Sr., Joan Martin, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Shearouse, Charlie Smith, Barbara & Tim Tyson, Melissa Waller, and Mary Gail Wolf.

WELCA

For the month of October, we will be collecting items for the Living Vine. They need towels, gift cards to Michael's, Applebee's, and Chili's or monetary donations.

We will also be collecting items needed for Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

It's That Time



Be sure to get your boxes.

October Altar Guild

8:30 Lynn Wood & Betsy Martin
11:00 Becky Truluck & Dottie Kraft

Communion Assistants

8:30	11:00
Gloria Brown	Mike Hatfill
Charlie Schafer	Jared McCallar

Lectors

	8:30	11:00
Oct 06	Melissa Flummerfelt	Carol Stemsrud
Oct 13	Emma Levy	Chuck McCallar
Oct 20	Dianne Fennell	Mary Gail Wolf
Oct 27	Betsy Martin	Gene Henry

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.

Minutes con't

Preschool: Janet Gnann reported to date current enrollment is at 64 with new students enrolling later this month. Plans are in the works for Trunk or Treat Fall Festival with the church partnering to sell hamburgers and hot dogs on October 25th. A staff meeting is planned for next week to emphasize the importance of adhering to procedures and keeping records. Health Department made a visit and the school for cited for a missing light fixture cover in the kitchen. Richard will handle replacing the fixture or finding a cover.

Property: Richard thanked all those who were able to participate in this past Saturday's workday. HVAC Filters were changed which Janet reported the preschool appreciated. Joey Barnard requested a supply of filters be ordered. Plans are to have another Saturday workday on Nov 16th at 9:00 and Andy Foose coordinating. Andy reported that listing the tasks on the white board is a big help.

Social Ministry: Bill reported that approx. 56 attended Rally Day with Lunch Sept. 8th. Upcoming events: Preschool Trunk or Treat October 25th, Congregational Meeting & Covered Dish Lunch November. Tri Church Festival and Family Advent Night in December. St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church has committed to participating in and hosting the reception for the 64th annual Tri Church. Donald is still working on the Baptists and Catholics to participate.

With no **New Business** Council resumed **Old Business** discussion begun last month regarding the Survey which had been taken during Services pertaining to the possibility of going to one 10:00 am Service in the hope of bringing members back to church. Bill reminded all to be mindful and respectful when presenting their opinions. Drew asked that everyone listen with an open heart. With the Floor open for discussion various Pros and Cons were presented which included: as most of the kids attend 8:30 Service this Service is a kid friendly Service; with so few in attendance at either Service a visitor can could construe that our church does not have anything to offer, and 8:30 attendees do not know 11:00 attendees. Joey observed during the discussion that there are two agreements, first we need new/more members to establish new programs and interests. Secondly, we have established members who are truly aligned and will adapt to a change if only temporary. More observation included we can try one service to bring members together, grow the congregation, and divide back into two Services if the need arises. Andy noted that as an analytical engineer, our objective is to bring members together for worship without losing anyone. But having an "all or nothing" attitude is not good for any resolution. Kim offered to create a children's church once a month at 9:00 to encourage parents to attend. Information could be given to the Preschool inviting attendance. Pastor announced that he liked the idea of going to a 10:00 once a month and having a children's church. Most ELCA churches are down 40-50% in attendance. He stated people want options for Service times and offering one service every week would not service all the people. Bill as Council President and Donald as Congregation Treasurer stated that were trying to remain neutral in the decision as both felt they need to represent the Congregation as a whole. Janet made a Motion that the Council reach a compromise to have the first Sunday in October as a one 10:00am Service with each first Sunday thereafter being a 10:00 Service. Andy Seconded the Motion and Council Unanimously Approved.

There being no further Business meeting adjourned at 7:45pm with Pastor giving a prayer. Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Lisa B. Neville, Secretary

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00 P Circle # 19 6:00 P Choir	3 9:00 A Craft Group 9:00 A Work Crew	4	5
6 Pentecost 20 9:00 A Sunday School 10:00 A Holy Communion	7	8	9 6:00 P Choir	10 9:00 A Craft Group 9:00 A Work Crew	11 12:00 Noon Etc/ Wayfarers	12
13 Pentecost 21 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	14	15	16 6:00 P Choir	17 9:00 A Craft Group 9:00 A Work Crew 5:30P Exec.Comm. 6:00P Church Council	18 * EPISTLE DEADLINE	19 * Articles for the Epistle must be in the Church Office to make the mail out.
20 Pentecost 22 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	21	22	23 6:00 P Choir	24	25 4:00 P Day Care Trunk or Treat	26
27 Refomation 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	28	29	30 6:00 P Choir	31 Halloween	HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Charlie Smith 10/19 Doris Gladden 10/28	