

STATISTICS

STATISTICS	ATTENDANCE	
12/22 & 24/2025	10:00 A	93
	6:30 P	179
	10:00 P	59
12/29/2025	10:00 A	47
01/05/2025	10:00 A	70
01/12/2025	8:30 A	34
	11:00 A	42
01/19/2025	8:30 A	39
	11:00 A	41
01/26/2025	8:30 A	26
	11:00 A	44

STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING

12/22 & 24/2024	Current	\$ 4,137.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	25.00
12/29/2024	Current	\$ 790.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	00.00
01/05/2025	Current	\$ 6,064.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	25.00
01/12/2025	Current	\$ 3,091.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	00.00
01/19 & 26/2025	Current	\$ 3,125.00
	Invest in St. Paul's	25.00

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St. Paul's Epistle

February 2, 2025

Word from Our Pastor

"It's too late to turn back now" is the title of a song by Cornelius Brothers and Sister Rose. We live in a world where we constantly look back on our lives and the world wishing we could have a "do over". You would not drop the pass but catch it for the winning score. You would make the field goal; you would have invested in Apple when you had the chance.

Germany before World War Two wishes they never let Hitler into power and Israel might have paid more attention to what Hamas was planning just outside the border.

Jesus didn't have to go to the cross, but he did because it was the only way to bring us back to God.

We all have moments where if we could, we would turn back the clock and have a "do over" for something we said or did. That is unfortunately not reality. We have to live with our poor decisions some made by us and those around us.

What we can't do is forget what Jesus taught us. That we love in the face of hate. That we care for those who are hurting. The disciples once asked Jesus, "when did we ever see you hungry, or thirsty, or in need?" Jesus replied to them and to us... "What you did for the least of these you did for me." 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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First Communion Class – will Palm Sunday 13 April 2025 at 9:45am in the Chapel for Third and Fourth grade children or any age by request. **First Communion** will be at the 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service on 17 April 2025
Questions – please call Pastor at 912-713-7145

**Minutes of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting of January 16, 2025**

Council Members Present: Joey Barnard, Andy Foose, Janet Gnann, Chuck McCallar, Lisa Neville, Drew Schwalbe, Kim Screen, Bill Wiggins, and Richard Wolf. Also present: New Council Members Donna Wall and Ricky Truluck. Staff members present were Donald Martin and Pastor Hartmann. Absent: Chris Conway. Bill Wiggins opened the meeting at 6:00 and gave the Devotion. Minutes from the November 2024 meeting were approved via email and published.

As the first item of business, Bill opened the floor for nominations for President, Vice President, and Secretary positions. After discussion, Donna Wall accepted the Secretary position, Kim Screen accepted the Vice President position, and Joey Barnard accepted the President position.

Bill distributed a tentative Social Ministry event calendar for the year. He will continue to serve as Chair for Social Ministry. Andy reported that a church work day is in the works for February 1st. Bill and Andy excused themselves for the remainder of the meeting. Lisa remained to continue Minutes. Joey Barnard as President presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Pastor's Report: Report attached. Highlights from November and December include visits to homes, hospitals, and senior facilities. Thanksgiving lunch was well attended. Funerals were held for Pat Cunningham and Charles Coats. Officiated Wedding for Terry and Evelyn Temple Niekerk. January brought the Pet Blessing which was attended well for a cold bitter day. Confirmation is back with two children. Confirmation to be held June 8th. Play practice will begin soon with performances on June 6th and 8th.

Joey reported that Acolytes and Crucifers are needed for all services. He and Debra will contact and train any volunteer if they are given the name of someone interested in serving. He requested Council try to enlist anyone in the age group to serve.

Director of Music: Donald Martin reported that Choir had a wonderful Christmas season. He is Thankful for all who participated in all the wonderful Services held. Attendance for Tri Church was 165-170, Early Christmas Service 179, Late Christmas Service 71, and Lessons & Carols 55-60. Melissa will be on leave during January as she is having vocal issues. Donald is actively open for members to join the Choir. Handbells have been serviced; hopes are to resurge the Handbell Choir. Janet will assist in enlistment. Lent and Easter arrangements are in the works. Organ is scheduled for more maintenance due to pipe issues newly discovered.



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, Gene Henry, Don Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Ann Lariscy, George Martin Sr., Joan Martin, Sydney Oetgen, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Shearouse, Charlie Smith, Barbara & Tim Tyson, Melissa Waller, Michelle Ward and Joe Whitaker.

WELCA

It's a new year and we'd LOVE new members! Any lady at St. Paul's is already in the group- Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America even if they've never attended a meeting. We're a fun group of women dedicated to do Christ's work in the world!

Statement of Purpose: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to: Grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world.

Charities we're supporting are Safe Shelter and the animal shelter we decided needs the most immediate help is Renegade Paws. We can take monetary donations for either.

Specifics: **Renegade** needs towels, blankets, cardboard egg cartons, pet food, anything you need to care for your pet. **Safe Shelter** needs cell phones (used is fine!), toiletries, African-American hair care products, bus passes, clothing women & children, cleaning supplies, anything you use in your home, school supplies. There are LOTS of children there!

Minutes cont.

Property: Richard Wolf reported that the Defibrillator from the gym after the sale was relocated to Hoffner Hall. The Defibrillator had a battery pack issue which he has resolved. Donald reported that we once again had inhabitants in the vacant space between the church and parish building in the alley between us and the Greek church. Steps were taken to remove the inhabitants and once again cleaned the area. An additional fence/gate will be erected to hopefully discourage another inhabitant.

Social Ministry: Joey reported that Samaritans' Purse boxes were shipped and the upcoming Fish Fry for January 23rd will depend on the impending weather forecast.

Old Business: Covered in previous reports above. **New Business:** Covered in previous reports above. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M. with Pastor giving a prayer. Minutes taken and respectfully submitted ONE LAST TIME by Lisa B. Neville, Secretary

******Confirmation 2025******

The Rite of Confirmation will be on Sunday 8 June 2025 which is Pentecost. It will be at 11am. Confirmation class dates are as follows:

February 2(no class); **9,16, 23**

March 2(no class); **9,16, 23, 30**

April - no classes

May 4(no class); **11, 18, 25**(no class Memorial Day weekend

June **1** brief class at 9:30 to go over confirmation Sunday;

8 11am Rite of Confirmation

(Any questions call Pastor 912-713-7145)

February Altar Guild

8:30 Natasha Smith

11:00 Erin Foose and Lisa Neville

Communion Assistants

8:30 11:00

Gloria Brown

Lisa Neville

Lee Smith

Toni Hadden

Lectors

8:30 10:00 11:00

Feb 02 Gene Henry

Feb 09 Kelley Cale Dave Fulton

Feb 16 Charlie Schafer TBD

Feb 23 Kim Screen Chuck McCallar

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.

Treasurer: Donald reported the current bank balance for the church operations checking account is \$41,458.08 with all bills and payroll current. Angels this year donated \$62,208.50 in gifts. Truist savings account is \$54,000 and Endowment account balance for all designated funds is \$1,794,034.65 which changes daily due to market. Donald also reported that Shari Dyal, daughter of Pat Cunningham, had notified him that Pat had remembered the church in her Will. He is awaiting further information about the account from Wells Fargo. Of the \$54,000 in the savings account, \$12,000 has been earmarked for Synodical Students and will be issued in the next coming days. Additionally, \$7,200 has been earmarked for Synold Benevolence. Donald explained that the \$7,200 is 5% of the “undesigned” monies in Sunday offerings throughout the year. A Motion was made that the \$7,200 remain in savings as this time. Motion was seconded and motion carried. Donald reported our property insurance carrier notified the church that the current (2024) coverage was expiring due to the age of the buildings and being within and active Coastal Georgia and South Carolina Hurricane region. He contacted Seacrest Partners who worked through a similar situation for us last year to shop coverage for us. They suggested we remain with our current carrier for all coverage and go nationally for property coverage. They were able to secure property coverage with Lloyds of London with a premium of \$81,328 annually with the total insurance umbrella totaling \$98,000 for 2025. Donald is obtaining an appraiser to revalue the buildings, organ and stained glass to possibly reclass in order to save on further insurance premiums. Donald also stated that decisions regarding the roof be made soon. Also, a committee needs to be formed to revamp the kitchen. The kitchen needs a professional evaluation as the cabinets are falling off the walls and countertops need replacement. Joey suggested a committee comprised of Richard Wolf, Andy Foose, Bill Wiggins, Donald Martin and Janet Gnann form for this project. This committee will meet with contractors to obtain the best functionality for the operations, church and day school. Donald reiterated that the \$940,000 in our operations savings endowment account will not remain if offerings do not increase with membership. He encouraged that an Evangelism committee be formed.

Day Care’s checking balance is \$23,623.42 after payroll and bill payments with \$8,102.25 in savings.

Day School: Janet reported Students enrolled to date total 72 students. Staff numbers are down due to staff matriculation. Day School had a bout with COVID in Babyland but all is back on track. Janet reported that the Day School will begin repayment later this month of the loan made to Day School from their endowment Fund of \$15,000.

Minutes continued on next to last page after WELCA notes

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Epiphany 5 9:00 A Fellowship Hour/ Children's Sunday School 10:00 A Holy Communion	3	4	5 6:00 P Circle 19 6:00 P Choir	6 9:00A Craft Group	7	8 * Articles for the Epistle must be in the Church Office to make the mail- out by the following Wednesday
9 Epiphany 6 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	10	11	12 6:00 P Choir	13 9:00A Craft Group	14 12:00 Noon tc / Wayfarers	15
16 Epiphany 7 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	17	18	19 6:00 P Choir	20 9:00A Craft Group 5:30P Exec.Comm. 6:00P Church Council	21 * EPISTLE DEADLINE	22
23 Epiphany 8 8:30 A Holy Communion 9:45 A Sunday School 11:00 A Holy Communion	24	25	26 6:00 P Choir	27 9:00A Craft Group	28	
					HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Lynn Wood 2/01 Dale Ienuso 2/17 Nancy Clarke 2/23 Billy Conaway 2/23	