

STATISTICS

ATTENDANCE

03/30/2025	8:30 A	34
	11:00 A	47
04/06/2025	10:00 A	60
04/13/2025	8:30 A	35
	11:00 A	62
04/17/2025 Maundy Thursday	6:30 P	18
04/18/2025 Good Friday	7:00 p	51
04/20/2025 Easter	8:30 A	74
	11:00 A	106

STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING

03/30/2025	Current	\$ 7,078.00
04/06/2025	Current	\$ 2,134.00
04/13/2025	Current	\$ 3,550.00
04/20/2025	Current	\$ 5,260.00

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St. Paul's Epistle

May 4, 2025

**Word from
Our Pastor**

Don't forget one service at 10am begins in May.

Thanks to Janet and her helpers for making the Easter Brunch so special. Also, thanks to Donald, Jarod, the choir and everyone who made the Easter and Holy Week services wonderful as always.

I know one service will be an adjustment for many in this congregation, but your council feels it is the way to proceed. It will be the first time I have had one permanent worship service in my ministry. I like two for selfish reasons because I love everything about the worship experience especially children's sermons and the main sermon. I jokingly say that if the sermon was bad at the early, I could change it for the better at the late or I just have two bad sermons. At least as I say before you get bored it is over. Over twenty years ago I remember the shocked look when in less than ten minutes my sermon was over. Of course, I talk fast so that could stretch to twenty for a normal person speaking.

This is my fourth church and the first one where we have gone down in attendance and the at first three, we were supposed to go down but didn't but here for various reasons (covid not helping) we have.

Statistics show that going to one service is a mistake and we will never have the attendance that two services would bring us. I want to prove those numbers to be wrong, but it will take all of us to make that happen The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most positive message in the world and in each of our lives. Times have changed and more people stay home than go to church worldwide. Many more say they don't believe anything. I have unfortunately buried more people than have joined St. Paul's and these were the members who were here every Sunday. As a liturgical church we have a narrow window of potential new (cont.)

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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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Pastor con't.

members, but it is an opportunity to show people we aren't as boring as they might think. St. Paul's big growth spurts came when other Lutheran Churches in the area closed. Most of our new members come from out of state.

I love being your Pastor and I look forward to our new mission to reach out to those looking for a church home and keeping those who feel their worship service has been taken away from them. Pjh

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

All Council Members Present: Joey Barnard, Chris Conway, Janet Gnann, Chuck McCallar, Kim Screen, Drew Schwalbe, Ricky Truluck, Donna Wall and Richard Wolf. Also Present: Pastor Hartmann and Donald Martin. The meeting opened at 6:02pm. Minutes for the March 2025 meeting were approved via email and published. Pastor said a prayer and Drew Schwalbe gave the devotion.

Pastor's Report: In addition to normal worship services, counseling, there were 11am and 6:30pm services on Ash Wednesday and Lenten daytime services at 11am on Wednesday. There will be a daytime service at 11:00 on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as well as the 7pm evening service. First Communion class will be on Palm Sunday with First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Pastor will be on vacation the April 24th – 28th. Bill Wiggins and Donald Martin will cover April 27th services with no communion. He will also be on vacation May 12th – 16th. In May we'll begin having one service at 10:00am with Confirmation class at 9:00 before the service. Rite of Confirmation for Zoe and Cody will be on Pentecost June 15. Pastor also visited some younger members. He watched Ian Foose play in a Lacrosse match and saw Reagan Barnard perform in the show Hadestown.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Donald

Bank Balances on Hand for the Church and Day Care as of April 10th:

Church Operational Account	\$ 18,907.40
Church Operational Cash Reserve	\$ 53,352.21
Church Cash Endowment Account-Invested (4/10)	
(Maintenance /Operations)	\$ 907,997.09
Church (8) Endowment Accounts (4/10)	
(Restricted & Invested)	\$ 827,988.82
Day Care Operational Checking	\$ 17,847.00
Day Care Operational Savings	\$ 17,228.52

On St. Patrick's Day, The Parking Lot Fund Raiser netted \$1,860.00 which was designated for the American Cancer Society. That donation has been completed.

Worship and Music: Donald reported there will be Cantata at both services this Sunday, then Maundy Thursday with choir and Island Harmony. Good Friday service will be the Seven Last Words in darkness. We have 60 Easter lilies that the team will put out Saturday morning. Also, the brass band members and Jared will be here rehearsing on Saturday. On Easter Sunday there will be two services with Holy communion, the Brass and Choir. After the Easter liturgy stops on Pentecost, the new liturgy will begin. Jared will be on vacation June 8th. Rebecca McClain will be in town that weekend and will play for us.



Prayer Requests

Our Prayers are requested for: Kevin Boatright, Ronnie & Delores Boatright, Angie Briggs, Alan Brown, Florence Brown, Tom Brown, Jean Camp, Alice Ann Duggar, David Fennell, Melissa Flumerfelt, Miriam Fulton, Frances Graff, Louise Grotheer, Gene Henry, Don Kennedy, George Martin Sr., Joan Martin, Sydney Oetgen, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Shearouse, Charlie Smith, Debbie Sonnenschmidt, Barbara & Tim Tyson, Melissa Waller, Michelle Ward and Joe Whitaker.

WELCA

For the month of May WELCA is asking for donations of the below listed items for PACK and SHELTER FROM THE RAIN.

PACK, local non-profit, is a resource for children in crisis in our community, 24 hours a day – 365 days a year. They provide personal items, clothing, toiletries and comfort items to meet the physical needs of vulnerable children. Items that bring love, hope and security in their time of need. They also provide 5,400 weekend meal bags to students at 42 schools and community centers each week. Acceptable items are: Ramen noodle individual packs (NO CUPS) macaroni and cheese (up to 7 oz box) individual cereal servings, SNACKS including individually wrapped Rice Krispie treats; 2 count Oreo cookies or a similar item; snack size crackers with cheese or peanut butter; snack size cookies; child friendly granola bars such as Nature Valley Crunch or Kind and Pop Tarts. They can also accept NEW baby or children's clothing and toys for PACK COTTAGES program. This helps meet the needs of over 100 children in crisis each month.

SHELTER IN THE RAIN is a non-profit that provides assistance to single mothers and children in need in our community. Their wish list includes: Walmart/Target gift cards, Kroger gift cards, or restaurant gift cards, baby wipes, baby oil, baby shampoo, baby wash, diapers (new born to size 5), pull-ups (girls and boys), diaper bags, baby bottles, Clorox wipes, laundry detergent, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, paper towels, dish detergent, canned ravioli, canned green beans, canned stew, peanut butter, cereal.

May Altar Guild

Lynn Wood and Charlie Schafer

Communion Assistants

Chuck McCallar and Bill Wiggins

Lectors

May 04 Kelley Cale
May 11 Charlie Schafer
May 18 Gene Henry
May 25 Mary Gail Wolf

Volunteers Needed

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

Lectors/Communion Assistants - anyone interested please contact Janet Gnann @ 912-656-5771

Ushers – anyone interested please contact Ricky Neville @ (912)355-1601

Acolytes & Crucifers – 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

Day School Report: Janet reported there are 71 students plus one starting next week and 3 mid-May. We have 13 staff members plus one to start when paperwork is completed The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 17th and the Spring Program on May 16th with rehearsals starting in April. Staff continues to work hard despite being short staffed. Administration continues to interview for more staff and doing tours for more children. We should expect numbers to go down in summer due to 4 year olds leaving and some 3 year olds will leave as well. Janet noted that the weekly tuition hasn't been deposited this week so that's why bank balance reported by Donald is lower by about \$9000.

Property Report: Richard reported we haven't received the report on the steeple, but that will be addressed as soon as we receive it. The air conditioning report is in; chiller pump has gone out and we're waiting on Carrier to come make the repair since it's under warranty. There's also a leak in the line that needs to be repaired. Four lighting ballasts are out within the Parish Building. There will be a Work Day the day before Mother's Day. A list of tasks will be made so volunteers will know what to do when they arrive.

Old Business: 1) We're moving towards resuming Ministries that were stopped during Covid.
2) Janet has contacted several persons about working the nursery when we begin having one service in May.

New Business: 1) Due to continued problems, Janet made the motion to fire Terminix and reinstate Orkin for the daycare building as they already treat the sanctuary building and Hoffner Hall and do a good job. The total bill will be \$110 per month, which is less than we pay Terminix for one building. Drew made the second and the motion passed. The initial fogging of the kitchen is \$355 and we'll need volunteers to unload and reload kitchenware/food, etc. Donna suggested WELCA may help and will ask.

2) Richard made the suggestion to invite a WELCA member to attend Church Council meetings.

3) It was brought up to several council members we could do more to welcome New Members and their induction into St. Paul's going forward. Parishioners would like a more ceremonial process. Maybe use the Ceremony in Lutheran book of Worship and present them with a memento welcoming them into the church. We will revisit after doing research for a final decision.

4) Parking lot issues have come to our attention. With another new business starting across Bull Street, parishioners' parking needs to be addressed. Richard has called Tim's Wrecker Service and they will install new tow away signs at the entrances to the parking lot. Additional signage as well as flyers to place on cars before towing may be necessary to maintain community good will.

5) Upcoming Events: Work Day May 10th, Mother's Day Tea, May 11th after the service, & July 22nd BBQ. There being no further business, Pastor closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm. Minutes taken and respectively submitted by Donna Wall, Secretary.

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy Birthday Louise Grotheer 5/13 Jacob Paulsen 5/20 Carl Lettow 5/22				1 9:00 A Craft Group 5:30P Savannah Philharmonic Strings class	2	3
4 Easter 3 9:00 A Confirmation/ Fellowship Hour/ Children's Sunday School 10:00 A Holy Communion	5	6 5:30P Savannah Philharmonic Strings class	7 11:00 A Bible Study 6:00 P Circle #19	8 9:00 A Craft Group 5:30P Savannah Philharmonic Strings class	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 Easter 4 9:00 A Confirmation/ Fellowship Hour 10:00 A Holy Communion	12	13 5:30P Savannah Philharmonic Strings class	14 6:00 P Choir	15 9:00 A Craft Group 5:30 P Exec. Comm 6:00 P Church Council 5:30P Savannah Philharmonic Strings class	16	17
18 Easter 5 9:00 A Confirmation/ Fellowship Hour 10:00 A Holy Communion	19	20 5:30P Savannah Philharmonic Strings class	21 6:00 P Choir	22 9:00 A Craft Group 5:30P Savannah Philharmonic Strings class	23 *Epistle Deadline	24
25 Easter 6 9:00 A Confirmation/ Fellowship Hour 10:00 A Holy Communion	26	27	28 6:00 P Choir	29 9:00 A Craft Group	30 7:00 P Sharknado play	31