St. Paul's Epistle

"St. Paul's Lutheran Church glorifies God by connecting people to Jesus through teaching, serving, caring, & telling!"

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1700 Carridale Street SW Decatur AL 35601 256.353.8759 www.StPaulsDec.com

Friends in Christ,

The biblical story of Job illustrates the sometimes perplexing ways that God deals with His people. Sincerely pious conduct or faithfulness are no guarantee that a child of God will not encounter serious trouble and hardship in this life. God's Word communicates many stories of how the Lord is able to use the trials people face in life to achieve a positive purpose of strengthening one's faith, increasing one's trust in Him. At the same time, though, the Bible does not explicitly say that all of one's difficulties are specifically for the purpose of teaching patience or even to strengthen faith.

The Bible does tell us, in numerous places, that God always has a purpose and a plan (Romans 8:28). But His Word certainly does not promise that in this temporal life everything will turn out all right in the end. And sometimes there is no answer given to the why questions.

Consider, though, the verse Job 23:10, "But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold." How is it that this Bible verse says that when God has tested us, we will "come forth as gold?" The book of Job in general, and this verse in particular, remind us that in all of life the most important thing, really the foundational issue, is our relationship with God.

The truly amazing thing, though, is that God brings about and sustains our relationship with Himself through His own message to us that in Jesus Christ, and by the forgiveness He gives to us, we are His children and heirs of eternal life.

Yes, God does allow testing to come to us along life's way. The tests and trials may be severe. Sometimes what we go through is even seemingly unbearable. Yet still, the certain expression of God's steadfast love for us is that He gave His only Son to bear our sin and death (1 Peter 3:18).

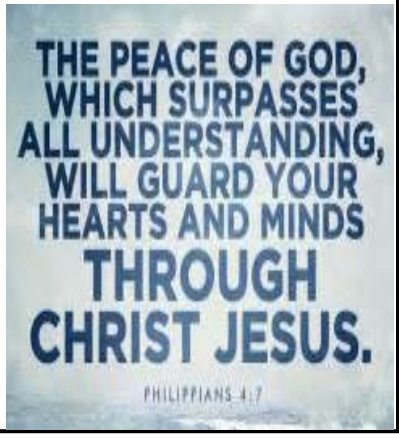
So we strive to remember that ultimately our lives and destiny depend not on what we do and on what happens to us. But we reflect always on what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, giving us eternal life as a free gift by faith in Him (Ephesians 2:8-9). And, literally, nothing can change that for God's elect in Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

So we continue to pray that our God of all comfort, even in the midst of the suffering and trials of life that we face, would draw our eyes to the cross of Christ and the empty tomb, where we see clearly that God loves us (Romans 5:8).

And as you pray, with thanksgiving, may the peace of God that transcends all understanding guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus our Savior (Philippians 4:7). Amen.

In Christ our Savior,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar



June 2021

Worship on Sundays

8:00am Drive-in Worship
9:30am Traditional Worship
In-Church & facebook LIVESTREAM
11:00am WZDK 98.5 FM Radio

Holy Communion June 6, 20

Bible Study

Galatians Adult Study Zoom
Sundays 6:00pm
Adult Confirmation Zoom
Wednesdays 8:00pm

Looking Ahead

Middle School Youth Swims
Dates TBA
Summer Programs for Preschool and KTT begin
June 1
Special Called Voters Meeting to Call a DCE
June 6
LWML Mite Collection
July 4
KTT Summer Closing
July 21
KTT Swamp Johns Fundraiser
July 22
Voters Assembly Meeting
July 25

Worship Schedule reverts
8:15am Traditional
10:45am CrossLife inside
August 1

RALLY DAY - all classes return
August 8
Wednesday Nite FaithLinks returns August 11

St. Paul's 2021 THEME VERSE
"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'"
John 20:21

St. Paul's 2021 THEME
We are a SENT people!

June 2021

† denotes Holy Communion celebrated during Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
30 **Trinity Sunday** **8:15 AM** Traditional Worship **9:30 AM** Radio 98.5FM Worship **11:00 AM** Drive-in Worship **6:00 PM** Galatians Zoom Study	31 **Memorial Day**	1 **9:30 AM** Staff Meeting **7:00 AM** Afterschool Care (T-F) **7:00 AM** PS Ext Care (T-F)	2 **10:00 AM** Quilting **10:30 AM** KTT Chapel **7:00 PM** Praise Band **8:00 PM** Adult Confirmation	3 **10:00 AM** PS Chapel **11:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Ministry **7:00 PM** Outreach Board-virtual	4	5
6 **8:00 AM** Drive-in Worship† **9:30 AM** Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† **10:45 AM Special Called Voters Meeting** **11:00 AM** Radio 98.5FM Worship† **6:00 PM** Galatians Zoom Study	7 **7:00 AM** KTT Summer Program (M-F) **7:00 AM** PS Ext Care (M-F) **8:45 AM** Preschool (M-Th)	8 **9:30 AM** Staff Meeting **6:00 PM** Education Team meeting **7:00 PM** Vestry meeting	9 **10:00 AM** Quilting **10:30 AM** KTT Chapel **7:00 PM** Praise Band **8:00 PM** Adult Confirmation	10 **10:00 AM** PS Chapel **11:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Ministry	11	12
13 **8:00 AM** Drive-in Worship† **9:30 AM** Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† **11:00 AM** Radio 98.5FM Worship† **6:00 PM** Galatians Zoom Study	14 **7:00 AM** KTT Summer Program (M-F) **7:00 AM** PS Ext Care (M-F) **8:45 AM** Preschool (M-Th) **9:30 AM** LWML Meeting	15 Newsletter deadline **9:30 AM** Staff Meeting	16 **10:00 AM** Quilting **10:30 AM** KTT Chapel **7:00 PM** Praise Band **8:00 PM** Adult Confirmation	17 **10:00 AM** PS Chapel **11:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Ministry	18	19 **12:00 PM** Livingston Bible Study
20 **Father's Day** **8:00 AM** Drive-in Worship† **9:30 AM** Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† **11:00 AM** Radio 98.5FM Worship† **6:00 PM** Galatians Zoom Study	21 **7:00 AM** KTT Summer Program (M-F) **7:00 AM** PS Ext Care (M-F) **8:45 AM** Preschool (M-Th)	22 **9:30 AM** Staff Meeting	23 **10:00 AM** Quilting **10:30 AM** KTT Chapel **7:00 PM** Praise Band **8:00 PM** Adult Confirmation	24 **10:00 AM** PS Chapel **11:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Ministry	25	26
27 **8:00 AM** Drive-in Worship† **9:30 AM** Traditional Worship & Facebook Live† **11:00 AM** Radio 98.5FM Worship† **6:00 PM** Galatians Zoom Study	28 **7:00 AM** KTT Summer Program (M-F) **7:00 AM** PS Ext Care (M-F) **8:45 AM** Preschool (M-Th)	29 **9:30 AM** Staff Meeting	30 **9:00 AM - 11:00 AM** Quilting **10:00 AM** Quilting **10:30 AM** KTT Chapel **7:00 PM** Praise Band **8:00 PM** Adult Confirmation	1 **10:00 AM** PS Chapel **11:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Ministry **7:00 PM** Outreach Board-virtual	2	3

Divine Call Voters Meeting

A special Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 6, at 10:45am in the ARC and by Zoom (see the weekly Friday email for the Zoom link) to extend a Divine Call for a Director of Christian Education (DCE).

Please join us for this special meeting.

Beginning June 6 and going through July
8:00am Drive in Worship
9:30am Traditional Worship and Facebook Live
11:00am WZDK 98.5 FM Radio

FINANCES

Current Loan Balance: $267,573

Financial Plan Activity thru April 30, 2021

YTD FirstFruits Giving:		$ 153,790	Goal YTD: $165,600
YTD Total Expenses:	-	$ 144,314	
Fin Plan overage YTD	+	$ 9,477	

Thanks to all for faithful Giving in-person, by mail, and online.
Online Giving is greatly encouraged!
Currently, 35% of our Givers give online; to join them, go to the website, download the app, or contact the Church Office for a paper application!

online giving
Secure Giving
on the website
www.StPaulsDec.com

2021 Giving by Month
Giving Goal: $41,400
4-Month Average: $38,448

Paycheck Protection Program Loans:

PPP1 Loan Status - "Forgiven in its entirety" - Hallelujah!

PPP2 Loan Status - $73,965 received March 25, 2021

Serving the Lord in Worship this Month at St. Paul's

	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27
Elders 9:30am	Bob Sullivant	Craig Baker		John Mann
A/V Techs 9:30 am	Rich Maschke	Craig Baker	Rich Maschke	Craig Baker
Sanctuary Flowers	Open	Open	Carol Henderson	Open
Adult Choir	Mary Morgan, Pete Alvis, Melinda Baker, Celia Faller, Steven Frick, Kellye Jones, Dee Livingston, Pam Meadows, Mitchell Whiteside, Mark Blaske			
Altar Guild for June	**Belinda Campbell and Pete Alvis**		**Counters for June**	**Tim Herfurth and Beth Hornish**
Elders 8:00am Drive-in	Ronnie Atkins Dave Burrell Mike Ringers	Ronnie Atkins James Gilchrist Mike Widmar	Dave Burrell James Gilchrist Mike Ringers	Dave Burrell James Gilchrist Mike Widmar
Praise Band	Pastor Kretzschmar, Christen Bradley, Maggie Nicholson, Steve O'Shea, Selena Salgado, Doug Thompson			
Greeters 8:00am	Dave & Jane Burrell	Jimmy & Carol Mueller	Dave & Jane Burrell	Jimmy & Carol Mueller

June 2 Evelyn Helpingstine
June 5 Ginnie Forthman
June 6 Emma Locker
June 7 Ana Barragan
June 7 Karen Bullen
June 7 Marsha Disher
June 7 Beverly Redwanz
June 8 Lydia Firpo
June 8 Luke Tuttle Frasher
June 8 David Sidley
June 9 Sara Love
June 9 Mark Blaske
June 10 Megan Appleton
June 11 Bob Strom
June 12 Hannah Miller
June 13 Paula Brown
June 15 Mackayla Mowen
June 15 Jeff Pittman
June 16 Darlene Randall
June 18 Betty Parker
June 19 Jeff Morgan
June 20 Hugh Morgan
June 23 Jerry Welch
June 24 Rana Bryant
June 24 Mason Livingston
June 24 Celia Royer
June 24 Katrina Cox-Smith
June 25 Melinda Baker
June 26 Marian Paradise
June 27 Wendy Duffey
June 28 Steve Frick
June 28 Richie Sautter
June 28 Marilyn Tidwell
June 29 Bruce Newton
June 30 Ashley Braswell
June 30 Beth Hornish

June 2 Dan & Shari Jones
June 2 Ben & Emily Carlson
June 3 Michael & Jennifer Kimmett
June 8 Mike & Beth Hellebrand
June 9 John & Mary Nelson
June 11 Larry & Charlene Lechner
June 12 Roger & Kim Hoeft
June 12 Philip & Gail Pisani
June 15 Rick & Kathy Sautter
June 17 Bob & Genene Strom
June 18 Graham & Penny Peebles
June 20 Jim & Ginnie Forthman
June 22 Nathan & Lisa Miller
June 25 Jeff & Paula Brown
June 25 Glenn & Mary Kay Hodges
June 28 Steve & Christi Kurtz
June 29 John & Chris Covington
June 29 LJ & Pete Alvis

God's Blessings on your Special Day!

We have included KNOWN birthdays and anniversaries. If yours is not on this list, it is not intentionally left off. please email or call the Church Office at 256.353.8759 and let us know your special day!

Lots of fun and fellowship was shared at the Lutheran Women in Ministry at St Paul's (LWML) Kentucky Derby Bingo & Bake Sale on May 2!

BINGO!

St Paul's Preschool

What's Happening

May is always such a busy month, and this year is no exception. We started the month with Moms & Muffins, followed by Teacher Appreciation Day, Preschool Graduation, and Fun Day, our end of the year celebration!

Graduation was indoors with a reception and art show following. It was wonderful to be able to share the night in-person with parents and friends. The children worked hard on their program and did a great job! Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it" We thank our teachers, staff and volunteers for all they have done to help our children learn the way they should go as they move on to "big school".

Happy Retirement Mrs. Dawn and Mrs. Michele!!

In May, we said goodbye to Mrs. Dawn and Mrs. Michele, as they begin their retirement. Between them they have served St. Paul's Preschool for 43 years! Mrs. Dawn has taught 25 years and Mrs. Michele has taught 18 years. They have touched the lives of many children and families over these many years. We love them and will miss them next year but are excited to see them begin a new chapter in their lives!

May Happenings

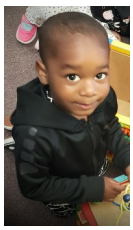
Moms and Muffins

Teacher Appreciation

Graduation

2021-2022 Open Registration

If you know someone who is interested in attending Preschool next year, please have them contact the Preschool Office at 256-353-1353.



HELP WANTED

St Paul's Lutheran Preschool is looking for Preschool teachers and Extended Care workers! We have 2 teachers retiring at the end of May. We also will need a morning (7-9) and possibly an afternoon Extended Care worker. We are a ministry to families who are looking for quality Preschool Education, while needing extended hours in the morning and afternoon.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old with a high school degree or GED, have experience working with children from 15 months to 5 years of age, and be able to work 20-30 hours per week. All applicants must have, or be willing to acquire, DHR background check, and CPR training. If you are interested in being a part of our Christian education team, please call 256-353-1353 or come by the office at 1700 Carridale St. S.W. Decatur, AL for an application.

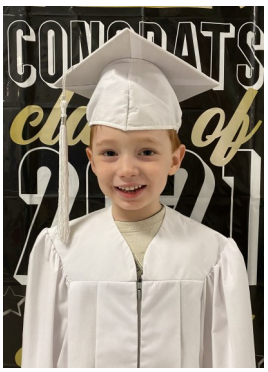
dates to Remember

May 31st:	CLOSED for Memorial Day
June 1-4th:	Extended Care
June 7:	Preschool classes begin
Wednesdays:	Water Days

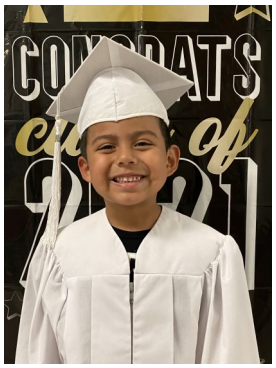
Nancy Neuendorf, Director
(256) 353-1353

For more info and pictures of activities, please visit www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec.Preschool

2021 St. Paul's Preschool Graduates



Peter



Jaziel

Jaye

Oliver

Britain

Vivian

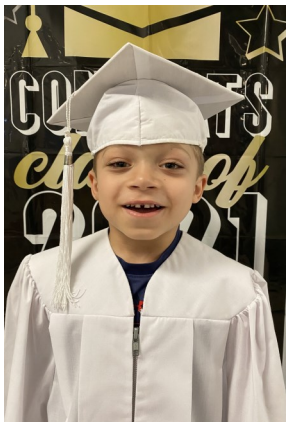
Alivia

Sophia

Benjamin

Ripken

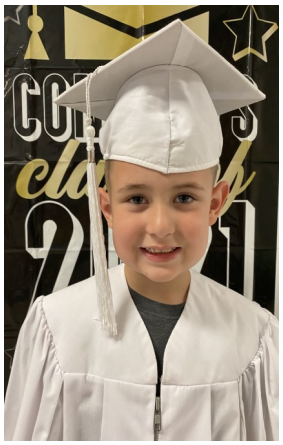
Aria



Mark

Harper

Layla



Adam

Afterschool Care

Members helping Members

Princesses of Grace, led by Felicia Salgado, are doing their part to beautify the property by planting flowers in the prayer garden.

We Lift our Hands in the Sanctuary

We Lift our hands to Give Him the Praise!

After completing a unit on spreading cheer and positive actions, our Girl Circle group painted pictures to hang in the activity center for group homes in Decatur for individuals who are mentally ill.

Charlotte Bradley, Director, KTT Inc
(256) 666-8601

For more info and pictures of activities, please visit https://www.facebook.com/KidzTweenzTeenzInc/