

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

MY peace I GIVE
TO YOU, NOT AS THE
WORLD GIVES
DO I give TO YOU,
LET NOT your heart
BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET IT
BE AFRAID. JOHN 14:27

Friends in Christ,

The month of June begins with Trinity Sunday on June 7th, a Sunday to remember that God is three Persons in One Divine Essence. In general, as we confess in the Creed, to God the Father we attribute creation, to God the Son redemption, and to God the Holy Spirit sanctification. Now, of course, the entire Trinity was there and involved in creation of the universe. The Spirit of God hovered over the water, and as the Word went forth there was then energy, matter, and life where previously there had been nothing (see Genesis 1:1-3 and John 1:1-3). Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, was sent according to the will of God the Father (John 20:21) and was anointed by the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's mission to redeem us (Luke 4:18). The Holy Spirit has opened the eyes of our hearts to see and believe the saving truth that Jesus Christ our Lord died for us and rose again

(1 Corinthians 12:3). And today for each of you, living as followers of Christ during these challenging times, you can remember "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Reflecting upon the Trinity is incredibly comforting, contemplating what we know about our Triune God from the Holy Scriptures, and also recognizing what we do not know about our saving God who is infinitely greater than each of us. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." The Lord is far greater than us, but yet He has revealed Himself to us and demonstrated His great love to us sinners (Romans 5:8). The promises of His Word are so rich. "But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Psalm 86:15).

For us who trust in Christ as Savior from sin, death, and the devil, the peace that our Risen Lord brings is astounding! In a recent message I mentioned that it is a peace that says, "If I should close my eyes for the last time tonight, when they open, there will be my Lord Jesus." No if, maybe, or I sure hope so. No, that's a fact! Truly, that's for certain—not because I am "religious." No, it's because I know by faith that Christ is our Risen Lord! And He says to me and to you, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19).

So during this pandemic we worship our Triune God, finding ourselves renewed by His Word and Spirit. And we serve our saving God, offering Him our time, our talents, our treasures, and our testimonies all to His glory, for the furthering of His Kingdom (John 18:36). The first Sunday in June will be the first Sunday where the Sanctuary will be reopened for worship in a very careful manner. But whether you are in the Sanctuary or at your home, in your car, or elsewhere listening to the Word of God, praying and praising the Lord in your heart, remember that the true God we worship is faithful, and no matter what comes our way He will sustain us (Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 6:33-34).

St. Paul's leadership selected Matthew 5:16 as the theme verse for 2020 with the theme "Take a Look." May we who trust in Christ and experience His peace in these times, be used by Him to let His light shine to those around us that they may look to our Redeemer and have Life in His Name! For many are depressed, discouraged and disheartened due to the circumstances we find ourselves in, but some are more open now to the Word of God than ever before, and you could be that person who shares the Word of Christ. Yes, tell others about our Savior who died for our sins, and invite them to join us (together with a good number of other "visitors" these days) listening to 98.5 FM, on Facebook Live, at the Drive-In Service, and now in the Sanctuary on Sundays and Tuesdays.

For truly, how good it is to worship our Triune God. How marvelous the everlasting peace we find in Jesus Christ, the only Son of the Father, who blesses us so abundantly with the fruit and the gifts of His Holy Spirit.

God's blessings and peace,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

June 2020

Worship on Sundays

8:00am beginning June 7

Drive-in Worship
weather permitting
otherwise

by Conference Call
1 (872) 240-3311 access
code 608 586 593

9:30am

Traditional Worship
In-Church with



Facebook Live & Website

11:00am

WZDK 98.5 FM Radio

Worship on Tuesdays

12:00pm beginning June 9

In-Church for health-
compromised worshippers

Bible Study by Zoom

Sundays 11:30am

Preschool

Summer Program

June 1

Holy Communion

June 21

Virtual VBS

June 22-26

Confirmation

as soon as possible

From the Elder Chairman

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

What a month it has been! Have you ever had your doubts that this is God's plan? And yet EVERYTHING is part of God's plan. Even a pandemic that science and medicine have not faced before is a part of God's plan. Because of this pandemic, St. Paul's has gotten very creative during this time with worship opportunities, including on-line worship (Facebook Live), radio, and Drive-In worship on campus. Pastor came up with a way for us all to commune and the Elders contacted all our members to get the communion packets distributed. Hopefully from these contacts you have gotten to know your Elder and would be comfortable contacting him if the need arose.

Because of the concern related to the coronavirus, we conducted a survey of our members to gain an understanding of everyone's willingness to return to in-church worship. Thank you very much for the great response to the survey!

Here are the results from the survey:

- 67% of all 2020 worship attenders responded (182)
- 48% of the responders are ready to return to in-church worship (88)
- 52% of the responders are not ready to return to in-church worship (94)
- 25% of those ready to return are CrossLife worshippers (22)
- 75% of those ready to return are Traditional worshippers (66)
- 17% of those not ready to return are CrossLife worshippers (16)
- 83% of those not ready to return are Traditional worshippers (78)

Based on the results from this survey information, the Elders and Pastor came to the conclusion that adding two (2) traditional worship services will be a good start to getting back to normal with one service being primarily for the at-risk and elderly members. The Elders believes that the Drive-In Service is providing a worship opportunity for those not ready to return to in-church worship. There will not be an in-church contemporary service (CrossLife) due to a lack of volunteers needed to support the service; many of those volunteers are involved in the Drive-In Service.

Beginning Sunday, June 7th, the interim schedule for worship will be:

Sunday:

- 8:00am Drive-In Worship (earlier to avoid the hot weather)
- 9:30am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with Facebook Live
- 11:00am Radio on 98. FM WZDX

Tuesday:

- 12 Noon Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

We look forward to physically gathering together for public worship. God designed our souls for this fellowship, and our spiritual health depends on it. We have taken seriously the state guidelines for reopening places of worship, including that It is highly recommended that church attendees wear masks while at church; masks will be provided for those without one. We will be sending and publishing a complete list of specific **Church Opening Recommendations** that we will follow during in-church worship that are intended for safe worship at this time.

Yes, God has a plan in everything that happens, even to make us more creative in getting His word out to our members and to the community around us.

In His Service,
Dave Burrell, Elder



Holy Communion will be Celebrated June 21!

We will be using our third communion set during all services; if you do not have a set for your household, please [email](#) or call the Church Office at (256) 353-8759.

Worship Times CHANGE June 7

Not Ready
to return to
In-Church Worship?

Ready
to return to
In-Church Worship
with social distancing
precautions?



Facebook
Live
Traditional
Worship
Sundays
at 9:30am

Worship
by Radio
on 98.5 FM
WZDK
Sundays
at 11:00am

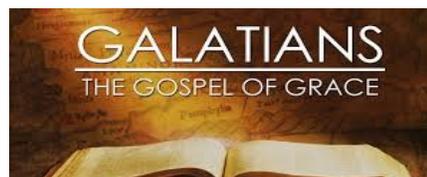
Traditional
Worship
in the Sanctuary
(& Facebook Live)
Sundays
at 9:30am

Traditional
Worship
in the Sanctuary
Tuesdays
12 Noon
for those
at-risk & elderly

Church Opening Recommendations

It is **highly** recommended that church attendees wear masks while at church and will be seated with a six-foot spacing. Please check your mail, your email inbox, and the [website](#) for the complete copy of the **Church Opening Recommendations** for in-church worship that was carefully compiled by our Elder Team.

Bible Study Opportunities



11:30 am
by Zoom or
Podcast—
connect to
God's Word

Join Michael McRae every Sunday until June 21 at 11:30 am by Zoom on your smartphone, laptop, or tablet - any device with a microphone and a camera to hear and join in on discussion. [Email](#) Michael at michael@mcrac.net to sign up for the class link.



POSTPONED!

We're waiting a bit longer
to gather together
—hope to see you soon!

*Called Home
to Heaven*

Larry Gibson
May 10, 2020

Deb Gibson wishes to thank to everyone that called, sent cards, and offered prayers. She sends her regards and welcomes continued contact. Please call the Church Office for her phone and address.



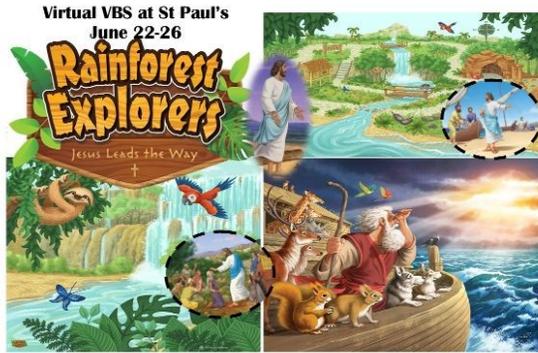
From the Desk of the DCE:

VBS Registration is now open!

<https://vbsmate.com/events/StPaulsDecVBS/19253>.

Register your children ages 3 through 5th grade by June 8.

Every day we'll have a VBS Opening on Facebook Live featuring Rainforest Explorers action song videos, and Bible Story lessons by some of St. Paul's families.



In addition, parents who have registered their children at

(<https://vbsmate.com/events/StPaulsDecVBS/19253>)

will receive two things:

- One VBS kit for each registered child with some supplies and resources to get you started Rainforest Exploring!
- Daily emails with unique content specific to that day's Bible lesson:

Crafts activities

Puppet videos

Snacks recipes you can make together And

Science-y lesson videos to reinforce

that day's Bible truth

Parents and grandparents will also be invited to join St. Paul's VBS Parents Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StPaulsVBSParents/>) where I'll share information and additional resources, and you'll be able to share photos and videos of your VBS activities with your children!

I hope you can join us this summer for our VBS Rainforest Adventure where "Jesus Leads The Way!"

Remember, I am here for you. If you have questions about any of our virtual and distance activities for the summer, or just need to talk, please don't hesitate to contact me

(felicias@stpaulsdec.com, 256-353-8759).

Peace and blessings,

Felicia Salgado

Director of Family Life Ministry

felicias@stpaulsdec.com, (256) 353-8759



June Theme:

All kinds of water - pond, river, ocean and the animals that live there

Beach fun, sand, mud ~ International Mud Day celebration on June 25

Father's Day ~ Independence Day activities

Summer Bible theme: Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is not law."

Week 1: Overview Week 2: Love Week 3: Joy Week 4: Peace

Also, a BIG THANK YOU to Chris Covington for the entry gazing ball with "St. Paul's Shines in the Son!" WE ALL love it! 😊



We will be CLOSED on July 3rd to celebrate Independence Day!

Nancy Neuendorf,
Director
(256) 353-1353



Pictures from Chapel with Mrs. Felicia in the gym with social distancing.

Story-telling and showing how to send hugs during these times.

Even our youngest ones are staying safe!



June 2 Evelyn Helpingstine
 June 5 Ginnie Forthman
 June 7 Ana Barragan
 June 7 Marsha Disher

June 7 Beverly Redwanz
 June 8 Lydia Firpo
 June 8 Luke Tuttle Frasher
 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 Jeff Pittman
 June 15 Mackayla Mowen
 June 18 Betty Parker
 June 16 Darlene Randall
 June 19 Jeff Morgan
 June 23 Jerry Welch
 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 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 Kim & Roger 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 20 Kay & Mary Jeanne Stoudnour
 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

What's Happening?

Text Message Update Opt-in

The Church Office is moving toward **Text Messaging** as our main means of communication — your opt-in is needed to be on the list!



To opt-in, text the word **Alert** to **22300**

THEN put the number **22300** in your Contacts list as **St Paul's** so that you receive & recognize us as the sender.

OneCallNow Update

- If you would like to receive a phone call **in addition to** a text message, or
- If you are not able to receive text messages, or
- You want to be removed from the OneCallNow list and just receive text messages, then please call the Church Office at 256.353.8759 or email ChurchOffice@sPaulsDec.com and request your change.

Weekly Email Update

If you are not receiving weekly emails with What's Happening at St Paul's each week, email ChurchOffice@StPaulsDec.com to be added to that list.



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting People to Jesus

Church 256.353.8759
 Preschool 256.353.1353
 KTT Afterschool 256.426.7734

1700 Carridale St SW
 Decatur AL 35601

home what to expect worship bible study ministry contact us links



Make **St. Paul's website www.StPaulsDec.com**

your go-to place

- ⇒ to find out what's happening
- ⇒ to click to facebook for online worship, Pastor's messages
- ⇒ to register your worship attendance
- ⇒ to access the online *Epistle* monthly newsletter
- ⇒ to give online
- ⇒ to submit prayer requests
- ⇒ to learn more about ministry events
- ⇒ and **MORE**

Make the website a one-click experience!

Bookmark or make a favorite of www.StPaulsDec.com on your computer, laptop, notebook, or other device



Add to your smartphone's Home Page

and the St. Paul's icon will appear to find easily



From the Congregation President and Vestry

In lieu of a typical Voters Packet, since these are not typical times, here is a summary of what would be in the typical Voters reports:

Pastor's Report of Official Acts:

Membership Gains and Losses YTD

Baptized Membership

Total Baptized Membership, end of 2019	563
Baptized During the Year	1
Received by Transfer of Parents	2
Removed by Transfer of Parents	-2
Total Baptized Membership, YTD	564

Confirmed Membership

Total Confirmed Membership, end of 2019	470
Gains	
Adults Confirmed	3
Juniors Confirmed (Parents Members)	1
Received by Profession of Faith	1
Received by Transfer from <u>Other</u> Lutheran	2
Losses	
Deceased	-2
Removed by Joining Non-Lutheran	-3
Removed from Membership by request	-5
Total Confirmed Membership, YTD	467

The January Voters Assembly **Meeting Minutes** are available via the website at [www.StPaulsDec.com/links/voters info](http://www.StPaulsDec.com/links/voters%20info).

The **Elder Team's** activities can be found in the article by Dave Burrell on page 2.

The **Education Team's** activities includes Felicia Salgado's information on VBS and Nancy Neuendorf's information on the Preschool on page 3.

Other activities include ongoing connections with the Middle and High School Youth and the Young Adults. The Education Team, following current state recommendations, has suspended all in-church Sunday School and Bible Study until decisions are made for the re-start of school this August. The Galatians Bible study led by Michael McRae, meets by Zoom on Sundays at 11:30 am.

The **Outreach Team's** activities currently involve supporting the continuation of the online worship service format. The KTT afterschool program, still under

the directorship of Charlotte Bradley, is under new ownership solely by Charlotte and her husband, Leon. They are seeking a non-profit status and state certification. The summer program has been in limbo awaiting these legalities, and Charlotte hopes to re-open again soon.

The **Trustee Team's** activities have included:

- the construction of a drainage ditch along the west side of the building in the Preschool playground;
- the painting of rooms and hallways in the Preschool, the hallways between the Fellowship Room and the Sanctuary, and the Narthex ceilings and the Kitchen;
- Providing the physical structures needed for the Drive-in Worship Service;
- the collection and placement of food goods in the Blessing Box—a BIG THANKS to the congregation for bringing in these needed items for give-away to our neighbors in need!);
- preparing the campus for the safe return of the Preschool and in-church worship; and
- adding mulch to the newly-planted shrubs along the alley.

Since the life of the digital sign's on-board computer has come to an end, the trustees are gathering bids for its replacement (approx. \$2,000) so that it can be put back into service. Since this funding is not in the current Financial Plan, other means of funding will need to be pursued to bring life back to the sign.

The next page contains St. Paul's **Financial Summary**. At 42% of the way thru the year, we have 37% of our budgeted Giving received (our less-than-goal Giving in January & February and then pandemic-affected March & April Giving has taken its toll – May Giving was \$49,000! Praise to the Lord and thanks to attentive congregation members! The Financial Plan shows the application of the PPP Loan received in April reimbursing our payroll expenses, utilities and mortgage expenses for 4 of the 8 weeks into the Loan payout period. We have approx. \$42,000 to yet apply in June. Utility costs are down: Worship, communication, and disinfecting supply expenses are up. And many of our expenses are fixed whether we are here or not. Two months of un-tuitioned payrolls for Preschool has taken the biggest toll on our Plan. The PPP Loan will help through mid-June but then is used up. **Your gifts are sincerely needed.**

THANK YOU to those who have continued to worship with your tithes & offerings!

While we have been unable to meet together, many have signed up for secure online giving and some have sent their offerings by mail.

Michael McRae, Vestry Chairman & Congregational President



Financial Summary

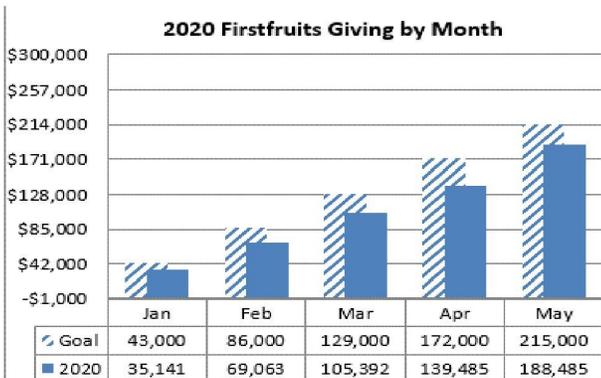
St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report

May 2020

Total Funds in the Bank 12/31/19 to begin 2020	\$198,005.88
Income	383,681.77 includes \$110,247 in PPP Loan funds
Disbursements	-303,171.32
Balance on Hand 5/31/20	\$278,516.33 \$80,510.45 total increase during 2020

Thrivent Building Loan Balance	\$286,637.15					
Breakdown by Fund	Balance	Balance	Income	Disbursements	Balance	Change
"Checking Account"	12/31/2019	01/01/2020	during 2020	during 2020	5/31/2020	YTD
Budgeted Operating Expense Fund	3,747.94	0.00	188,484.84	-235,183.60	-46,698.76	-46,698.76
PPP Loan Reimbursement					61,450.83	
Net					14,752.07	
<i>Financial Plan funded by Firstfruits Giving</i>	<i>55,607.00</i>	<i>Preschool Income</i>	<i>1,673.46</i>	<i>Afterschool Income</i>	<i>offset Expenses in Financial Plan</i>	
<i>2019 Budget overage was transferred to the Emergency Fund on 01/01/2020: details may be found in the 2020 Financial Plan Report</i>						
"Emergency Fund"	47,152.07	50,900.01	1,554.06	0.00	52,454.07	1,554.06
<i>funded by Budget Fund transfers, interest</i>						
"Savings Accounts"	63,748.43		7,367.51	-574.24	71,791.70	8,043.27
Total Available Working Funds	114,648.44		<i>Operational trigger set at \$40,000</i>		77,547.01	-37,101.43
Donor-Restricted Funds	83,357.44		17,997.90	-10,133.02	90,722.32	7,364.88
PPP Loan applied to Budget Fund	0.00		110,247.00	-61,450.83	48,796.17	
Total Funds	198,005.88		215,404.31	-245,890.86	278,516.33	80,510.45

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Financial Plan Detail				May 2020
		2020 YTD Actual	2020 Financial Plan	5/28/2020 11:27
Income				
Firstfruits (Current) Giving for Budgeted Expenses		\$188,485	\$508,120	37% <i>May is 42%</i>
Total Elder Expenses		\$129,875	\$329,253	39%
All other Education expenses	1,733		8,751	20%
+ Preschool Ministry	44,012		9,683	455%
Preschool Income	-55,607	<i>no tuition March 18 - May 11; normally would be ~\$40,000 higher</i>		
Preschool Expenses	99,619	<i>salaries paid & offset by PPP Loan for 8 weeks</i>		
Total Education Expenses	\$45,745		\$18,434	248%
Total Parish Outreach Expenses	\$3,986		\$5,925	67%
Total Trustee Expenses	\$38,204		\$103,696	37%
District Missions Tithes	\$17,373		\$50,812	34%
Total Expenses	\$235,184		\$508,120	46%
Financial Plan Activity for 2020 through May		-\$46,699	<i>June PPP reimbursement remaining</i>	
PPP Loan Reimbursement of payroll expenses		\$57,489	\$37,981	
PPP Loan Reimbursement non-payroll expenses		\$3,962	\$3,962	
Financial Plan Activity for 2020 through May		\$14,752.07 with PPP applied		
+ Preschool Ministry had LESS income than expenses by	-\$44,012	2019 Income	\$199,397	-\$10,912 MORE Giving in 2019
++ Afterschool Care Ministry had LESS income than expenses by	-\$2,566	2019 Expenses	\$182,438	\$52,746 LESS expenses in 2019



The Payroll Protection Program Loan for \$100,247 + a \$10K emergency SBA advance was received.

Our monthly payroll and benefits is \$40,000 (Preschool tuition offsets the Preschool staff's payroll and benefits). The PPP Loan actually covers payroll from April 24 - June 23;

\$19,205 of the PPP Loan was applied to offset the total expenses in the Financial Plan in April;

\$41,943 of the PPP Loan was applied to offset the total expenses in the Financial Plan in May.

There is \$41,943 in the PPP Loan line for June to complete the 8 weeks.

The loan allows for two month's coverage and forgiveness of the loan as long as 75% of the loan goes towards payroll costs; we will meet that criteria. We were allowed to apply for 2.5 times the payroll costs to allow for payment of