



THE INFINITE NATURE OF GOD

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."
John 16:13

We often struggle with the way to describe the divine nature of God. A simple way might be to use an apple with the skin, the flesh, and the seeds as three parts, yet one apple or a man as husband, father, and son, yet one man. Our finite human minds can only grasp so much of the infinite interrelationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to his disciples so they might have a helper to be with them for all times. The helper is the Spirit of truth and dwells within the followers of Jesus.

The disciples trusted the guidance of the Holy Spirit to keep them connected to the words and teachings of Jesus. We too should stay connected to God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to give us understanding.

How can we describe God? Even the best of poets and writers find themselves in a limited capacity to describe the nature of God. Yet, as we experience the majesty and mystery of God touching and transforming our lives, our hearts desire is to sing praises and share the good news. How can we *not* speak of God, yet what words are adequate?

We are not God, so how can we grasp it all? With humble spirits we receive the gift from Jesus Christ of the Holy Spirit and trust the Holy Spirit to guide our faith. The Holy Spirit continues to draw us close to God through Jesus Christ and keep us in true faith.

Prayer

Lord, you are an awesome God. Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to work in my life. Continue to stretch my finite nature to be open to your infinite love and goodness. Amen

IT'S EXCITING TIMES FOR THE ACADEMY OF EARLY LEARNING

May 23 - [Job Fair](#)

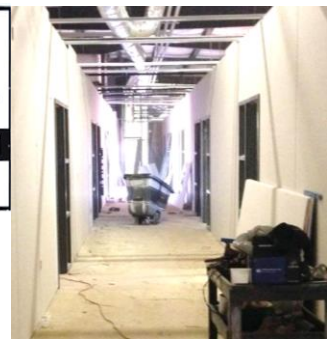
Wed 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. · St. Paul Lutheran Church

June 15 - Sneak Peek/Open House

Friday 3 p.m. · The Academy of Early Learning Montgomery

July 6 - July 7 New Teacher Orientation

The Academy of Early Learning Montgomery



Construction is steadily progressing with a target completion date of July 1.

For more information about enrollment click [here](#).

For information about staff or volunteer positions click [here](#).

*St. Paul
Lutheran Church*

The Messenger

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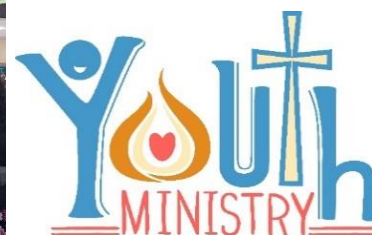
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May 2018





The youth group spent a few hours at the church the Saturday before Easter prepping and decorating. They arrived at 6:00 a.m. Easter morning to set up and cook! After serving the congregation, we packed up all the leftovers and took them over to Friendship Mission to share our blessings with the men there. As always, our congregation was more than generous with their donations, and we thank everyone who came to eat and support this wonderful youth group!



Bryan Rose from Auxanō will be our representative and lead us through the Visioning process on Friday, June 1st and Saturday, June 2nd. We have 15 leaders from the congregation representing both services with varying age groups. Please pray for those involved on that weekend, and for the process, as we look to our Lord for His vision for St. Paul in the next 20 years.



St. Paul Lutheran

APRIL VOTER'S MEETING

In the voter's meeting, the Endowment Fund Committee recommended that St. Paul's original investment into the Endowment Fund be returned to St. Paul's general fund. The congregation approved this move. In addition, a motion was made to dedicate those funds to the long overdue updates and repairs to the St. Paul campus. Again, this was approved by the congregation. That leaves approximately \$20,000 needed to replace the aging and deteriorating floors in the Fellowship Hall, offices and classrooms. A presentation was made relative to the "Visioning" for St. Paul. Although not budgeted, the congregation felt this was long overdue and passed a motion to pursue our visioning with Auxanō. Funds to hire Auxanō were made available from savings, and a generous donation from a member that provided to fund the visioning effort.

What is Auxanō?

The busyness of ministry, combined with the clutter of church growth ideas, leaves many pastors with more questions than answers. As a result, progress is slow, people are scattered, and the work of ministry may feel less meaningful. There is no one-size-fits-all answer, but there is a proven process that will deliver the right answers for growth — answers based on your community and your church's capability. The way forward is developed from your team's passion and your unique vision.

In fact, that's what our name means in Greek— "*to cause to grow*"—found in the books of Acts and Ephesians. We are the only nonprofit church consulting firm that focuses on vision clarity and visionary planning.

As experienced growth guides, we navigate your team through a custom-fit collaborative journey to bring new levels of focus and progress. Our services fuse vision clarity with one of five critical needs in your church: resourcing, leadership, execution, communication and discipleship.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Eleven households are participating in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) - a comprehensive nine-week class in personal finance. Topics have included budgeting, debt reduction, saving, insurance, retirement & college planning, mortgages & estate planning, and the great mis-understanding. Everyone in the class has been very engaged in taking charge of their personal finances.

The final session is scheduled for May 6.



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The initial efforts of the team are related to the website, social media, and surveying our membership for input. Areas of emphasis are: keeping content current, maintaining a robust "master" calendar, and developing a directory of all ministries and contact people.

More information will be sent to member households and announcements in the services in the near future.

Those who have participated on the team are Scott Arnold, Jon & Kristi Dunham, Meg Hewes, Ashley Semple, and Mike Nisbet.

PROPERTY

We expect to have contractor bidding and evaluations completed by the first week of May.

Accompanying the contractor work we will need to begin the "sweat equity" portion of the project including: pressure washing & painting (at least the area around the entry from the parking lot), replacing the screen around the air conditioner, replace broken light fixtures, and landscaping.

A coordinator and several volunteers are needed. How about you? Contact Mike Nisbet.



CHURCH CHICKS

Ladies of St. Paul - Come out on the second Saturday of each month for food and fellowship. We meet at Chappy's on Vaughn Road at 8:30 a.m.



Tori Arnold graduated from Stetson University in Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Kathryn Elam will graduate from University of Texas in Dallas with a Master's degree in Speech Pathology.



In April, the Pairs and Spares group started a new Bible Study focused around the book, *The Circle Maker* by Mark Batterson. We are discussing the importance of praying circles around your biggest needs and trusting God to provide according to His will. We just started this study last week and are looking forward to growing in Christ and learning more together.

We held our monthly social event at Brunswick Lanes on April 21st. It was a great time to be together and let our competitive spirits out! We then moved to the best new pizza place in town, Bibb Street Pizza Company and enjoyed some delicious dinner and great fellowship there.

Our next event is Saturday May 19th where we will be kayaking down the Coosa River with the St. Paul Youth Group. Contact Kristi Dunham (kristidotdunham@gmail.com) for more information if you are interested!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will meet on our regular day, Thursday, May 10th at 11:00 o'clock. We will be studying the New Testament book of Jude, the last book in the Bible.

Please take a few minutes to read through Jude before our meeting. You might be surprised to find it won't take you but a few minutes to read the whole thing. Then, see if you can determine its author and some facts about him using a study Bible or the internet.

Do any of the verses sound familiar?

BO PEEP OUTREACH

Ten children enjoyed listening to The Story of the Lord's Prayer by Patricia Pingry, Chicka Chicka 1,2,3 by Bill Martin Jr and Pete the Cat and his four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin. It was a fun day.



A thank you note from Women's Friendship Mission was read to the 14 ladies present. Our \$1,000 donation was greatly appreciated.

More details will be learned about a new Christ-centered program opening in Montgomery. The Foundry Ministries will help women transition from prison to a productive future.

Many thanks to Joyce Martin for all her support and serving as LWML secretary. We'll miss you.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come serve the Lord with gladness and make new friends.

ST. PAUL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We did a volunteer drive before Christmas asking people to commit to various things in the church. We will soon start contacting those who volunteered and asking them to honor their commitment.

If there is anyone who did not volunteer or does not remember if they volunteered they are welcome to send me an email at bdsmith1980@gmail.com and we can get them added to the volunteer list.

Bryan Smith



REALITY & TRUTH MINISTRIES

The Church did a wonderful job at Reality and Truth Ministries feeding the hungry.

We gave out Easter gift bags and they were well received. A fun time was had by all.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the family of Tom Woods (former member of St. Paul) who passed away the last week of April.

General Health Concerns

Carl Carlson, Audrey Cordes, Christine Duggan, Joyce Gravitt, Albert Hurgo, Crowell Lisenby, Sadie Owens, Nick Sebastian, Eunice Twiss, Merrily York

Undergoing Treatment or Medical Care

Ozzie Abel, Arline Brown, Margaret Carlson, Jesse Cone, Marjorie Elam, Sophia Hartsfield, Ann Lenz, Ted Mather Jr., John Mikulka, Anne Ohme, Varna Rushton, Jack Smyly, Meriam Van Eron, Dick & Judy Vaughn, George Willson Jr., Jim & Berna Wittkop

Long-term illness

Becky Culver, Nancy O'Shields, Gracie Pennington

NOTE: If there are any changes in family members/friends, please contact the church office.



Ava Dradzynski	5/3	Joshua Farrar	5/13
Dan Andrews	5/5	Karen Jones	5/13
Kurt Miller	5/8	Gunnhild Grant	5/16
Dustin Hughes	5/11	Carrie Paxton	5/16
John Olsen	5/12	Rebecca Culver	5/26



Happy Anniversary



May 8 TLC (*The Love of Christ*), 10:30 a.m.
May 10 Women of the Word Bible Study, 11:00 – 12:30
May 12 Mexican Train Dominoes, 6:30 p.m.
May 12 Church Chicks at Chappy's, 8:30 a.m.
May 15 LWML, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
May 19 Journeymen at 9:00 a.m.
May 20 Military Appreciation Sunday
May 23 Academy of Early Learning Job Fair, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Dan & Amanda Andrews 5/5/2000
Drew & Dee Wilson 5/14/2016
Ron & Kajuana Hill 5/17/2003
Mike & Janet Nisbet 5/17/1975
Crowell & Gayle Lisenby 5/21/1988
Brandon & Brittany Richardson 5/28/2011

Serving the Lord with Gladness

(Please call the church office for changes)

Altar Guild – Jon & Kristi Dunham

	Readers	Ushers	Audio/Visual	Acolyte/Crucifer	Nursery	Greeters	Counters
May 6 8:15 a.m.		Jerry & Sandy Huffstickler	Scott Arnold			Jerry & Sandy Huffstickler	
10:30 a.m.	Rudy Ohme	Kurt & Cindy Hetler Need Volunteer	Bill Schuchman	Beau Smith Stanford Garnto	Need Volunteer	Neil Foulger Janice Mather	Rosalinda Crum Bill Schuchman
May 13 8:15 a.m.		Ron & Paula Mitchell	Scott Arnold			Florence Smith Ethan Smith	
10:30 a.m.	Harlan Rosin	Matt Buckley John Olsen Don Schulz Adam Warnke	Kyle Arnold	Aidan Smith Michael Landers	Terry Elam	Janet & Harlan Rosin	Terry Elam Janice Mather
May 20 8:15 a.m.		Mike Nisbet Need Volunteer	Scott Arnold			Mike & Janet Nisbet	
10:30 a.m.	Laura Salmons	Harlan & Janet Rosin Steve Nightengale Need Volunteer	Milton Kennedy	Xander Smith Ava Dradzynski	Sue Gill	Janice Mather Need Volunteer	Terry Elam Ashley Semple
May 27 8:15 a.m.		Jerry & Sandy Huffstickler	Scott Arnold			Ron & Paula Mitchell	
10:30 a.m.	Debbie Mikulka	Dan Andrews Bob Cordes Dan Devaughn Need Volunteer	Dick Vaughn	Jack Dradzynski Julia Bennett	Volunteer Needed	Jon & Kristi Dunham	Debbie Olsen Dick Vaughn