

LIVING LOVE

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

In 1 John 3:23 (*And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us*), John connects the command to "believe" with the command to "love one another." This is actually the same move Jesus made when he taught the Great Commandment, which is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as you love yourself."

At the last supper, Jesus emphasized this connection between his love for us and our love for others. But then he added an important implication: it is our love for one another which will let the world know we are Jesus' disciples. This is the most important foundation for evangelism.

Nobody will believe anything we say about Jesus, until they see us living like Jesus.



January/February 2020

The Messenger

St. Paul Lutheran Church

4475 Atlanta Highway . Montgomery , AL 36109
334-272-6214 stpauloffice@stpaulmontgomery.org
www.stpaulmontgomery.org

Chili Cook Off

Sunday, January 26
5:00 p.m.



Bring a pot of your favorite chili or a side to share.
Trivia Contest after the meal.

Valentine Dinner

Saturday, February 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Look for the sign-up sheet and sign up soon!

ST. PAUL
TOWN HALL MEETING
Thursday, January 16th
in the Sanctuary





*Children's Christmas
Worship Service 2019*

OUTDOOR JENGA

On Sunday, February 23, after the late service we will make an Outdoor Jenga game for our church family. A light lunch will be available. More details to come. What fun!!! Organized by the Cross Generational and Outreach teams.



This Lenten worship series is about Jesus and how He suffered mortal wounds as punishment for the commandments broken by us. Yet, those wounds are the means by which our sins are forgiven, and we are made whole again. In this series we will reflect on how the wounds of sin affect our relationship with God and others and how, through God's graceful healing, our Lord restores us once more.

Ash Wednesday February 26

The Wounds of Blasphemy – John 10:31-39

Jesus is accused of blasphemy and misusing God's name

Week 1 March 4

The Wounds of Violating the Sabbath – Luke 6:6-11

Jesus is accused of violating the Sabbath

Week 2 March 11

The Wounds of Dishonoring Authority – John 19:12-16

Jesus is accused of dishonoring authority, calling Himself a king.

Week 3 March 18

The Wounds of Murder – John 11:47-53

Jesus is accused of inspiring rebellion and the destruction of Israel; He is accused of being in league with Satan, who is a "murderer from the beginning."

Week 4 March 25

The Wounds of Adultery – Mark 2:13-17

Jesus is accused of associating with tax collectors and prostitutes.

Week 5 April 1

The Wounds of Stealing – Luke 23:1-5

Jesus is accused of forbidding the paying of taxes

Palm Sunday April 5

Coveting Power – John 12:12-19

Jesus is accused of taking power and glory for Himself

Maundy Thursday April 9

(We will be participating in a **Seder Meal**)

Good Friday April 10

Tenebrae Service of Darkness

Easter Sunday April 12

By His Wounds We Are Healed – Luke 24:1-12

In Jesus' wounds we are healed



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY

Fifty thank you bags for the Pike Road Volunteer Firemen were filled on Sunday, December 22.

All enjoyed a light breakfast.

Thank you, St. Paul family, for your generous donations.

This was another Thrivent Action team event.



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The new playground is designed for 2 – 12-year-olds with a capacity of 20 children. It is fully ADA compliant (including wheelchair ramp and transfer station) and has 9” of compacted ADA compliant wood fiber mulch inside 12” plastic landscape timbers.

There will be 2 curved slides, a surge climber, a crawl tunnel, a loop pole climber, a playwheel and single seat transfer step. Installation will be no later than the end of February.



WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

It's that time again, ladies.

The Women's Bible Study continues to meet on the regular schedule of the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Come join us as we continue our study of the book of James.

The class meets 11:00 -12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

STEPPING INTO THE PROMISED LAND

Long-time member, Eunice Twiss, went to be with her Lord and Savior on December 27, 2019. She was a member of the St. Paul congregation for over 50 years.



After a decline in health, Joyce Gravitt (Ginger Richardson's mother), joined her Lord and Savior on January 12, 2020.

Please keep the families in prayer as they mourn the loss of their loved one.



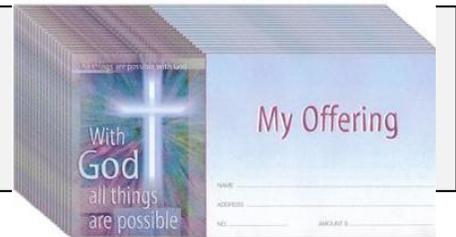


JERRY HUFFSTICKLER

I was born on a small cotton farm in the Mississippi delta and grew up chopping and picking cotton. My father was a deacon in our Baptist Church for as long as I can remember. The church was the center of our religious, cultural and social life. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior at age 13. By age 15, the pastor started talking to me about becoming a minister. I was already the Sunday School Superintendent and it seemed like a natural progression. However, fate led me in a different direction. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1963 in the aircraft maintenance field. Technically I was in that field my entire career however I rarely worked in it. I saw combat in Vietnam in 68-69 and ran the Logistics Readiness Center for the Grenada operation. I served to 2 special operations units. I earned my bachelor's degree in 76 and my masters in 78. I took a commission in 78 when most of my peers were planning their retirement. I was Chief of Software Development for the largest standard system in the Air Force. When Turkey bought the F-16s from the U.S., I was asked to take this system and implement it for Turkey to support their new fighter fleet. This was about the time I met and eventually married Sandra. She continues to be an inspiration every day. After retirement from the Air Force, I joined Northrop Grumman and spent 20 years with that fine organization. I rose from an analyst to a vice president level. A terrible automobile accident forced me to retire. I was completely disabled. I had to learn to walk, talk, read and write all over again. It was, and at times continues to be, a challenge. We moved to Montgomery about 6 years ago. One of the first things we did was go church shopping. Sandy grew up Lutheran, so we visited both Lutheran Churches in Montgomery. When we came to St. Paul, Rosalinda grabbed us and brought us in the front door. Pastor Elam and the congregation kept us here. In December 2018 I was elected as your Elder. Each day it is a blessing and a reward to serve our Lord and this blessed congregation.

IT'S TAX TIME

Your 2019 annual contributions statement is available in the Narthex.

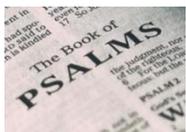


SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

If you have any questions about the studies, please speak with Pastor Elam or Kristi Dunham.



BEATITUDES - Led by Pastor Elam (8 weeks). We long to forgive, to have a pure heart, to find peace in our lives, but we just don't know how to get there. We get stuck. This study was created to get us unstuck and build momentum toward a more godly, holy life. It is a Biblical exploration of the Beatitudes, some of Jesus' most famous teachings. Because each Beatitude builds on the one that came before, Jesus' teachings provide a road map for making progress in our spiritual lives. When we diligently pursue holiness, we're in a position to receive the blessings Jesus promised.



PSALMS - Led by Chaplain Boarts. In this hymn book of the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit speaks through real people who are walking through a wide range of life experiences: from great pain, doubt, and sorrow, to firm faith, joy, and gladness.



UPCOMING - THE EASTER EXPERIENCE (A Combined Adult Education Class During Lent - beginning 3/1) - The Easter Experience brings the passion, and resurrection of Jesus to life through a dramatic storytelling and challenging teaching done in a highly cinematic style. Through these in-depth teachings, you will grow spiritually, bonding with each other as well as with the eternal message of Easter.

LWML PRAYER WARRIORS

Prayer warriors are people who consistently pray for others. By our interceding, we put ourselves between the problems and the other person, standing there in the armor of God. We put aside our own cares, and care for them.

Paul was a prayer warrior like no other. He repeatedly prayed for many of the churches he visited. His letters begin with a prayer for the people, that their faith would increase.

As women of the LWML, we are always praying for others. We pray for our members who are hurting, or sick, or suffering. And we ask our friends to pray, too, and it multiplies exponentially. We know that God is listening and will answer. Are you a prayer warrior?



The LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES supports almost 200 chaplains, who represent the church on active duty, the reserves, the National Guard, and Civil Air Patrol. Chaplains meet the needs of military personnel and their families.

The LCMS cares deeply for those who currently serve, for those who have donned the cloth of our nation in uniform, and for those who served our nation and live in our communities.

Our pastors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod serve honorably and with distinction as military chaplains. From the Civil War through both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and current areas of conflict, our chaplains bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to those protecting our great nation.

Some chaplains serve on forward bases in harm's way, others onboard ships maintaining vigilant watch over the seven seas, and others walk the flight line on isolated Air Bases engaging Airmen on faith and family as they load fighter aircraft for combat operations. These "pastors in uniform" provide Word and Sacrament ministry while enduring hardship, constant peril and danger.

The LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces assists and trains congregations through project Operation Barnabas. The goal is to equip and encourage local LCMS members in compassionate care and witness by training outreach to all military connected people (active, reserve, retired, veterans and their loved ones).

Our LCMS Barnabas congregations and chapters reach out to these families through witness and mercy at the local level, whether it is the families of loved ones deployed or assisting those who have served to reintegrate back home with their family, their church and their community.

<i>Tommy Holman</i>	<i>1/17</i>	<i>Stanford Garnto</i>	<i>2/2</i>
<i>Steve Richardson</i>	<i>1/21</i>	<i>Andy May</i>	<i>2/8</i>
<i>Ruthie Jackson-Osborn</i>	<i>1/21</i>	<i>Jordan Arnold</i>	<i>2/12</i>
<i>Ethan Smith</i>	<i>1/23</i>	<i>Rachel Arnold</i>	<i>2/12</i>
<i>Sammy Kirklin</i>	<i>1/25</i>	<i>Linda Richardson</i>	<i>2/12</i>
<i>Matthew Antoon</i>	<i>1/26</i>	<i>Mark Wootan</i>	<i>2/12</i>
<i>Diana Kirklin</i>	<i>1/26</i>	<i>Grant Behning Jr.</i>	<i>2/13</i>
<i>Ella Warnke</i>	<i>1/27</i>	<i>Jeremy Holman</i>	<i>2/15</i>
<i>Mindy Buckley</i>	<i>1/30</i>	<i>Bryan Smith</i>	<i>2/15</i>
<i>Linda Schuchman</i>	<i>2/1</i>		



<i>Milton & Debbie Kennedy</i>	<i>1/20/1978</i>
<i>Wyman & Lori Cabaniss</i>	<i>1/23/1982</i>
<i>Dave & Laura Anderson</i>	<i>1/24/1981</i>
<i>Steve & Donna Dradzynski</i>	<i>2/15/1992</i>



Jan. 16 **Town Hall Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 18/Feb. 15 Journeymen at 9:00 a.m.
Jan. 19/Feb. 2/16 Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.
Jan. 23/Feb. 13/27 Women of the Word Bible Study, 11:00 a.m.
Jan. 23/ Feb. 13/27 ... Dulcimers at 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 21/Feb. 18 LWML at 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 26 Chili Cook Off at 5:00 p.m.
Jan. 31 Reality & Truth, 4:30 at Faith Rescue Mission
Feb. 11 TLC at 10:30 a.m.
Feb. 15 Valentine Dinner at 5:00 p.m.
Feb. 8 Church Chicks, 8:30 a.m. at Chappy's
Feb. 8 Mexican Train Dominoes at 6:30 p.m.
Jan./Feb. Mon./Tues. Nights - Dance, 5:30–9:00 p.m.

Feb. 23 Congregational Outdoor Jenga Game
June 22-25 Vacation Bible School



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS

Jan. 19 8:00 Jerry & Sandra Huffstickler
 10:30 Matt Buckley, Kurt Hetler, Don Schulz & Adam Warnke
 26 8:00 Jason & Ryan Lueck
 10:30 Kurt & Cindy Hetler, Steve and Jason Dradzynski
 Feb. 2 8:00 Ron & Paula Mitchell
 10:30 Kurt & Cindy Hetler, Steve Nightengale & Volunteer
 9 8:00 Mike Nisbett & Drew Wilson
 10:30 Dan Andrews, Kurt Hetler, Dan DeVaughn & Rosalinda
 16 8:00 Jerry & Sandra Huffstickler
 10:30 Matt Buckley, Kurt Hetler, Don Schulz & Adam Warnke
 23 8:00 Jason & Ryan Lueck
 10:30 Kurt & Cindy Hetler, Steve & Jack Dradzynski

COUNTERS

Jan. 19 Diane Wootan & Karalyn Maevers
 26 Jessica Smith & Amanda Andrews
 Feb. 2 Debbie Olsen & Janice Mather
 9 Terry Elam & Karalyn Maevers
 16 Diane Wootan & Amanda Andrews
 23 Jessica Smith & Debbie Olsen

GREETERS

Jan. 19 8:00 Mike & Janet Nisbet
 10:30 Harlan & Janet Rosin
 26 8:00 Jerry & Sandy Huffstickler
 10:30 Rosalinda Crum & Volunteer
 Feb. 2 8:00 Ron & Paula Mitchell
 10:30 Janice Mather & Volunteer
 9 8:00 Florence & Ethan Smith
 10:30 Harlan & Janet Rosin
 16 8:00 Mike & Janet Nisbet
 10:30 Karalyn & Larry Maevers
 23 8:00 Jerry & Sandy Huffstickler
 10:30 Rosalinda Crum & Volunteer

ALTAR GUILD

January – Sandy & Jerry Huffstickler
 February – Debbie Kennedy

READERS

Jan. 19 8:00 Glenda Morrisette
 10:30 Rosalinda Crum
 26 8:00 Ryan Lueck
 10:30 Diane Wootan
 Feb. 2 8:00 Jerry Huffstickler
 10:30 Steve Dradzynski
 9 8:00 Mike Nisbet
 10:30 Neil Foulger
 16 8:00 Glenda Morrisette
 10:30 Jackson Smith
 23 8:00 Carrie Lueck
 10:30 Mark Wootan

NURSERY (10:30)

Jan. 19 Terry Elam	26 Volunteer
Feb. 2 Rachel Arnold	9 Volunteer
16 Sue Gill	23 Terry Elam

ACOLYTES

Jan. 19 Beau Smith & Julia Bennett
 26 Bree Andrews & Hailey Andrews
 Feb. 2 Stanford Garnto & Jackson Smith
 9 Jack Dradzynski & Pace Crew
 16 Ava Dradzynski & Bree Andrews
 23 Julia Bennett & Beau Smith

Please submit pictures/information for the newsletter by the 12th of each month to dhoward@knology.net.

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

To activate the prayer chain, contact Margaret Carlson at 334-567-0964 or the church office at 272-6214.