

September 2022

EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S
L U T H E R A N
C H U R C H

Established 1884



*A monthly newsletter of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
604 Pitt Street, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464*

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Here's What is Happening In



September 11, 2022 Council Meeting – 8:00 AM

September 11, 2022 “God’s Work Our Hands” Food Drive for ECCO

September 18, 2022 Breakfast & Sunday School KickOff – 8:30 AM

September 22, 2022 Peter Wamano Concert @ Fellowship AME Church – 7:00 PM

September 25, 2022 Church’s 138th Anniversary Celebration – Following Church Service



From the Pastor's Desk

How to Grow Our Church

On Sunday, August 28th *, I preached a sermon I initially titled, How to Save This Church. After input from my wife, Meredith, and my daughter, Maggie, I changed it to, How to Grow This Church. But either way, I wanted to respond to the underlying anxiety of many people that our church is in decline. What I liked about my initial title is that it implies there is something we can do about it, and there is.

The short history of American churches is that we peaked, as far as attendance, in the 1960s when it was the cultural norm. But due to several factors, nearly all churches have been in a downward trend since then. There are also life cycles of individual churches. You may remember the Crystal Cathedral. It is no more. Every church has times when the focus is on the Greatest Commandment and making disciples. Every church also has times when it slips into comfort mode. That certainly isn't a technical term, but the church becomes more inward-focused, almost like a country club for insiders. The natural human tendency is to stay in comfort mode because it makes us feel safe. However, a church will die if it stays in comfort mode. On the other hand, a church will thrive if it diligently works (both individually and corporately) at focusing on Jesus' Greatest Commandment and making disciples. So, the good news is that all we must do is choose to be mission-focused daily, and growth will happen.

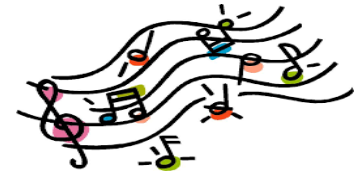
"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:25a,33)." Choosing to be mission-focused daily implies that we can start doing something right now to grow our church. Church growth is all about relationship growth. People are hungry for Jesus, and we find our purpose in befriending them, asking them about what's happening in their life, listening, listening some more, affirming that you care, and praying for them. When we do this, Jesus shows up. Whether it's the new person in the pew behind you, your neighbor that you don't really know, or the checkout lady at Harris Teeter, there are people all around you who need you to befriend them and truly care about them. As relationships grow, Jesus is in the midst of that. And when Jesus is in the midst of our lives, don't worry; our church will grow. Go and befriend someone today. It will bless you and your church more than you could ever imagine. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21)."

*If you were not in church on the 28th , I recommend you watch the sermon portion to see an outline of tangible things that you and I can do. You can find the service here for the next four weeks: saintpauls.online/pages/worship; choose the 8/28/2022 service. See the appendix to this article to see the handout that was passed out. It's a great blueprint on How to Grow This Church.

I love being your pastor,
Pastor Aaron



From the Choir Loft



The July 18 concert presented by the French Boys Choir was a resounding success! Thanks to Laura Togami for advertising it, Freesi Nelson for live-streaming it, Sue Detar, Tommy & Karen Bryant and John Nelson for providing housing for the singers, Karen Bryant for preparing a pre-concert meal and to all of you who attended. It was truly a magical evening.

Our next program will be on Monday, October 17th at 6:30pm. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of our church building and the Zimmer pipe organ. In recognition of this milestone, we will host the October meeting of the Charleston Chapter of the American Guild of organists. Cornell Zimmer, the grandson and son of the builders will be here to share his memories of the installation and a bit about the Zimmer Organ Company. Hopefully, a member of St. Paul's will be on hand to give a brief history of the church. The evening will conclude with several local organists playing short pieces. All of the repertoire for the program will be drawn from the wealth of material from the pen of the prolific American composer of choral and organ music, Dr. Gordon Young (1919-1998).

Our choir is small but dedicated. We are always looking for new members. We welcome all voice parts but are especially in need of a soprano or two. One need not read music or have a professionally trained voice to join. We are an informal group and participation would require only a small time commitment. We practice on Sunday mornings at 9:00am. There are no mid-week rehearsals to try to fit into your busy schedules. If you like to sing, please prayerfully consider joining our ranks and making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Thomas Bailey

Welcome to the Family!

MEET TOMMY & KAREN BRYANT



Tommy Bryant and Karen Bryant are excited about joining, or rejoining, St. Paul's fellowship. Tommy is Bob and Jane Bryant's youngest son. They have passed on to Paradise, but Tommy and Karen hope to serve the church as they did.

Tommy is an electrician with Electric Supply (42 years) and Karen is the Marketing Director for ACE Preferred Inspections and side hustle her catering business "Cruisin Cuisine of Charleston".

Their grandchild, Gabby, is 10 and lives with them. She is a 5th grade student at James B. Edwards.

Their enjoyment in life comes from Karen's children and grandchildren and camping.

MEET ILSE WHITE



I was born in Neuenheim Heidelberg, Germany, in 1945. In 1959, I came to the United States to be with relatives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I met and got married to Jerry White in Florida in 1968. We have two children.

Our daughter, Kelle, lives in Ohio and blesses us with three grandchildren, Tami, Henry, and Emma. Our son Justin lives in Seattle, Washington, and blesses us with our youngest grandchild, Kyra. Jerry and I moved to Charleston in 1973 because he had a clinical psychology internship at the Medical University. We ended up staying because he received a job teaching at the Medical University. I have been a hairdresser and have owned my beauty salon for years. Jerry is now retired, and I love my job. I have so many wonderful people in my life and now I am grateful to join St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



Sunday, Sept. 11th

Food Drive for ECCO

Bring a whole bag of food to worship and plan on taking a picture with the congregation after service!

Invite the Community to participate!!!

BREAKFAST & SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF!!



Sunday, Sept. 18



**Breakfast will be served
drop-in style from 8:30-9:45 am**

**Sunday School will begin at 9:15 am,
9 am on subsequent first and third Sundays.**



Peter Wamono Concert

**Thursday, Sept. 22nd
7:00pm**

**At Fellowship AME Church
GREAT MUSIC, GOOD FELLOWSHIP**



Pastor Peter Wamono is a pastor, friend of the DeBenedetto family and talented musician from Uganda!

**Our Church's
Anniversary**



138th Celebration

**Sunday, September 25th
Following church**

Bring a covered dish for all to
enjoy at our luncheon following
church!

Ham & Chicken Provided

What is the "Synod?"

In June, I attended the South Carolina Synod Assembly, the annual conference for Rostered Leaders (Pastors and Deacons), and delegate representatives from each church. Business of the church is conducted using Robert's Rules of Order, but most of the time is spent hearing about the positive impact of our Synod and its churches. This year focused on telling faith stories. As a result, I'm encouraging one person per month to share part of their faith story with us in the Epistle. I look forward to reading the stories of you dear people of St. Paul's.

While I was at the Assembly, I had a thought. I don't know how many people actually understand what the Synod is and does. From my experience, there has always seemed to be more grumbling about "the Synod" than there are positive reflections. Where does that come from? Is that from experience, hearsay, being misinformed, etc.? I wasn't sure. So, on the next page, I have shared a chart from Synod Assembly that helps visually explain the place of the Synod. Please have a look and then come back here. Please note all the ministry teams, committees, and partnership entities that all function as part of our Synod relationship. There is A LOT!

It can be hard to understand what the Synod is or does, but in my experience, the Synod is valuable. Some of the most critical roles of the Synod involve helping congregations during the pastoral call process, helping congregations through times of congregational conflict, providing a network of support for Rostered Leaders (Pastors and Deacons), providing a network of support for other congregational leaders, and providing outreach to such places as Lutheran Camps and Campus Ministries.

The word "support" probably best describes the Synod's role in the life of an ELCA Lutheran Church. The Synod is not our "boss" by any means because we are a congregational church that legally exists on its own. However, by adopting the model constitution of the ELCA, we are made partners with the Synod, and a certain amount of structure is imposed upon us.

Most of the structure is helpful and supportive, but like anything, sometimes the intent and the effect are two different things. Additionally, as with all nonprofits on a limited budget, the Synod does the best it can with what they have. Unfortunately, they don't always nail it. All I have is personal testimony: my experience with four different synods has been largely positive. Bishops have always been there for me, and Bishops have always been there for my congregations. In my opinion, *The office of the Bishop* (another term for the Synod) is generally a positive partner in the life of our congregation. It helps us connect with a greater ministry across our state, country, and the world.

You can always approach me if you have any questions about what the Synod does and why they do it. I am open to conversation. I will find the answer if you have a question I cannot answer.

If you want to watch a video about the Synod's outreach in recent years, check out the video at the bottom of the Saint Paul's website homepage: saintpauls.online.

Pastor Aaron

JOINING NEIGHBORS + SERVING BOLDLY + LOVING ALL THROUGH CHRIST

CONGREGATIONS OF THE SC SYNOD OF THE ELCA

9 Conferences / 3 Geographic Areas

Deepening Discipleship Table

- Rostered Ministers Network**
 - Invitation to Service Task Force
 - Candidacy Task Force
 - First Call Travel, Education Task Force
 - Convocation Task Force
 - Compassion Guidelines Task Force
 - Intern Ministry Task Force
 - Leadership for Faithful Innovation Task Force
- Steward Leaders Network**
 - Mission Support/Interpreters Task Force
 - Culture of Generosity
 - Stewardship for All Seasons
 - Lineage Distribution Team
 - Ventures in Growing Stewards Task Force
 - Creation Care Task Force
 - Region 9 Planned Giving
- Lifelong Faith Formation Network**
 - Christian Education
 - Worship & Prayer Task Force
 - Equipping Evangelism Leaders
 - Congregation Vitality (New & Existing Congregations)

Communication & Technology Table

- Synod Technology Advisory Network**
 - Priorities, Tools & Budget Task Force
 - Technology Assistance for Synod
 - Web Development Task Force
- Communication Assistance Network**
 - Assisting & Resourcing Congregations
- Assembly Communication Network**
 - Writers
 - Social Media
 - Photography
 - Guidesbook

Community Engagement Table

- Global Mission/Companion Synod Network**
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Southwestern Diocese (ELCT) Task Force
 - Iglesia Evangelical Luterana de Colombia (IELCO) Task Force
 - Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) Task Force
 - Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)
- Community Outreach Network**
 - Public Education Task Force
 - Gifts of Hope Task Force
 - Criminal Justice Task Force
 - Disaster Task Force
 - Military Ministry Task Force
- Inclusiveness Network**
 - Race, Reconciliation & Justice Task Force
 - Latino Task Force
- Indigenous Peoples Accompaniment Network (IPAN)**
- Ecumenical Network**
 - Christian Action Council
 - Fellowship of South Carolina Bishops
- Hunger Relief Network**
 - Domestic and World Hunger Task Force
- Youth/Young Adults Network**
 - Beloved Ministry Task Force
 - Campus Ministry Task Force
 - Youth Ministry Cabinet Task Force
 - Young Adult Ministry Task Force

- South Carolina Women of the ELCA
- South Carolina Lutheran Church Youth
- South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission

Office of the Bishop

Synod Council

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Joint Ministries of Region 9
James R. Crumley Jr., Archbishops

Churchwide Expression of the ELCA

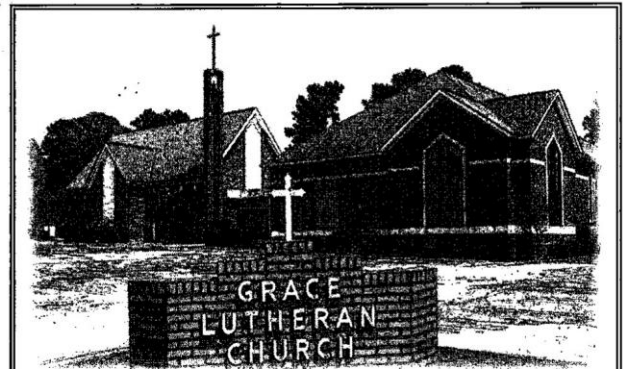
Institutional Boards
 South Carolina Lutheran Relief Centers
 NovosVay
 Newberry College
 Lutheran Homes of South Carolina
 Lutheran Services Carolinas
 Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

AMENDED - February 22, 2021

Date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Today I opened a piece of mail from Grace Lutheran Church in Prosperity, South Carolina. I didn't know what it contained. Inside was a card made from an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of goldenrod copy paper. The card was addressed to their "Sisters and Brothers in Christ." I took it as meaning St Paul's. Inside were dozens of signatures from people within the Grace Lutheran Church worshipping community letting us know that they had prayed for us during worship that day. What a blessing to be blessed in this way. What a ministry Grace Lutheran Church is doing to remind other churches that others are praying for us. Please see the cover and inside of the card below. Remember, someone's always praying for you, and our church, apparently!

Pastor Aaron



*We Prayed for
Your Congregation
Today*

*at
Grace Lutheran
Church
in Prosperity, SC*

*Judy Bedentungl
D. J.
Cindy Amick
Andrea Linn
Wayne + Sue Mitchell
Michael White
Andy + Mike Franklin
Pastor Theobald
Pastor Al
Edwina Nicker
Wayne + Sally Damm
Chop + Terri Coy
Shaun Rice
Dale + Julie + Jessica Staley*

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
- Numbers 6:24-26*

*Sisters + Brothers in Christ,
As partners in sharing the Gospel,
we prayed for you, your pastor,
your leadership, and your ministries
during our worship service today.*

In Christian Love,

*Emmett Nicker
Mary Sue + Eddie Rennie
Mike Stealy
Lynn Shover
Ron + Kathy Brown
James + Rony Derrick
Quida + Romona
Eda Wicker
Beverly + Johnny Meek
Phil + Deborah Huff
Brad + Malinda Walter
Beverly Hawkings
Craig + Lisa Fall
Dary Hartman*

**Please DONATE Cases of Water Bottles
for our neighborhood Tennis Courts!**



**St. Paul's is starting to provide bottled waters under the tennis
court benches to our neighborhood tennis players!**

GIVE ONLINE NOW

THROUGH



TITHE.LY

Download the Tithe.ly App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app and select **(St Paul Lutheran Church)** and follow the steps below:

- Since this is your first time giving with [Tithe.ly](#) you will be prompted to create an account that you can use for all future gifts.
- The first time you will also need to add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info.
- Once your account has been created you won't need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give!
- A reminder you have the ability to set your gift up as recurring.

And of course, if you need any help making this change, please just ask the church office, and we will be glad to assist you.

Follow St. Paul's Lutheran Church on



And view our Sunday Services LIVE!

Those Serving St. Paul's in September 2022

Sundays after Pentecost

	<i>September 4, 2022 13th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>September 11, 2022 14th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>September 18, 2022 15th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>September 25, 2022 16th Sunday after Pentecost</i>
Providing Altar Flowers	Joann Kimbrell	Lisa Peeples	Brenda Fischer	Betsy Cappelmann
Pews, Colors, Banners & Candles	Freesi Nelson	Laura Togami	Phillip Hair	Phillip Hair
Project/Facebook	Nelson	Nelson	Nelson	Nelson
Counters	Tina Carter & Lisa Peeples	Emi Kent & Freesi Nelson	Becky Beckett & Colleen Coste	Jon Nelson & Sue Detar
Worship Assistant	Lisa Peeples	Gene Beck	Tamara Whitlock	Jon Nelson
Offering Presenter	Deacons	Deacons	Deacons	Deacons
Deacons/Ushers/Greeters	Judy Snyder & Caroline Mauney	Judy Snyder & Caroline Mauney	Judy Snyder & Caroline Mauney	Judy Snyder & Caroline Mauney

Flower Baskets/carriers and take home vases available in Sacristy. Contact Betsy Cappelmann.

Service	Scheduler	Cell Phone #	Home Phone #	Email
Evangelism/Visitation	Caroline Mauney	843-509-8815	843-884-2679	cbmauney@bellsouth.net
Flowers	Betsy Cappelmann	843-830-3438	843-881-3146	betsycap@comcast.net
Deacons/Counters/Sacristy	Laura Togami	843-327-4194	843-883-3153	Lktogami1@comcast.net
Worship Assistants	Lisa Peeples	843-834-3542		5Peeples@bellsouth.net

If you would like to serve St. Paul's in 2022 in any of these ways above, please let Laura Togami know!!!

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY:

We need more volunteers to help The Nelson's & Togami's with running the sound board/Streaming services through Facebook Live/Projecting Powerpoint slides for services! If you are at all capable of helping, please let Laura Togami know! *You will be trained before jumping into this!*

Options for Communion in 2022



If you are still unable to attend church services at this time, but want to partake in communion:

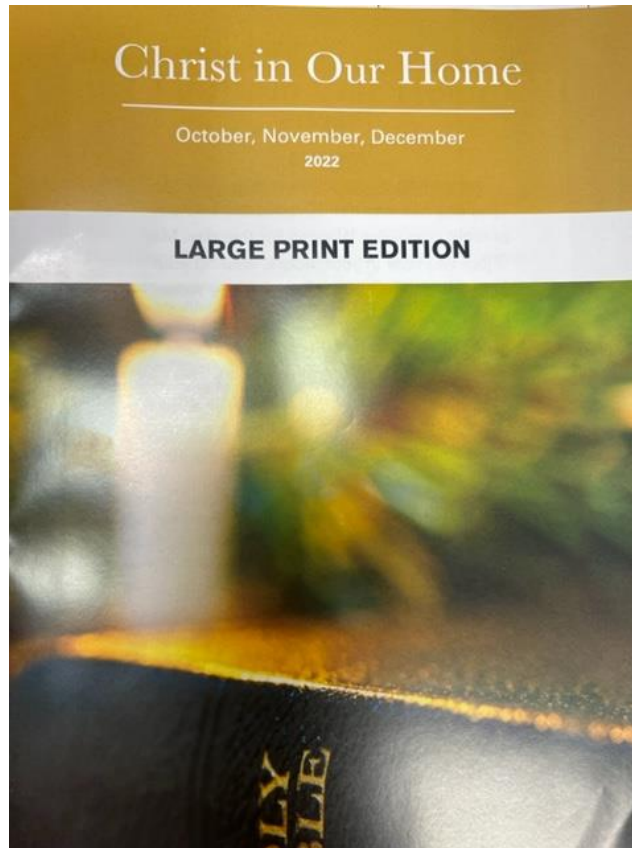
- You may come pick up some of these awesome individually wrapped communion packets for your family, which can be used as you worship with us through Facebook Live! Just email or call Laura Togami in the church office to schedule a pick-up time.

Christ in Our Home Daily Devotional Books

For October, November, December



AVAILABLE NOW!!!!!!



These devotionals are great for a quick and easy daily read!

It's a great start to your day!

If you would like us to send you one in the mail,
please let Laura Togami know!

rightnow MEDIA



FREE



FREE

“RightNow Media is like
the Netflix of Christian Bible Study”
10,000+ Bible Study Videos for ALL AGES

Watch content from your TV, desktop, laptop, Roku, iPhone and iPad app.

EMAIL: admin@saintpauls.online
to request an invitation from St. Paul’s Church to access
RightNow Media!



Whether at home or in the back seat on a long drive, families with children of all ages now have unlimited access to an enormous library of entertaining and educational Bible-based content just for kids.

**In 2022, Think about sending these people a card
to celebrate their special days!**



Adam Kershaw	09/01
Mike Kimbrell	09/03
Donald Lancaster	09/04
Neal Cormany	09/08
Earl Anne Hair	09/10
Aubrey Mae Robichaud	09/13
Kate Zetrouer	09/13
Carol Peecksen	09/15
Frances Wiedmer	09/19
Sue Detar	09/22
Bill Hightower	09/22
Melissa Butcher	09/30
Carolyn Doig	09/30

A Christian Community Striving to Share God's Love with All

Guiding Principles

Jesus is Savior and Lord.

God transforms and heals in surprising ways.

Worship, Word, Sacrament and Prayer strengthen our faith.

We joyfully, faithfully & courageously share the good news

In thought, word and deed.

We welcome all to join us in God's work.



***St. Paul's Lutheran Church
604 Pitt St.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464***

