

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church NOVEMBER 2022 Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.



November 2022 From the Pastor's Heart

Spiritual Trick or Treat

Trick or Treat has evolved into a nice fun outing for children. They dress up in costumes get their little buckets and parade around the neighborhood going door to door to collect delicious treats in the form of packaged candies. While it has not always been the case, the Tricking part of Trick or Treat does not exist today. Even if you run out of candy, the late arriving kids and their parents are not very likely to play a trick on you. It's just not worth taking a chance on getting arrested by the police. Halloween Tricks are more likely to take the form of vandalism, where stupid kids ride around damaging mailboxes with baseball bats or throwing eggs on houses. Despite the innocence of children dressed in ghoulish costumes Halloween still has an ungodly feel to me, a sort of celebration of spiritual darkness and evil. Churches are trying to redeem and recast the tradition by creating Trunk-or-treat events. Church members park their cars in the church parking lot and pack treats in their trunks. Parents bring their Children dressed in costumes to the location where the children go trunk to trunk gathering goodies instead of door to door. Some churches combine trunk or treat with harvest festival celebrations or Hallelujah Nights.

Having four grandchildren who will be trick or treating inspired me to think about the deeper spiritual aspect of the Halloween Holiday and its Trick or Treat tradition. In many ways Satan is knocking at the door of our hearts and challenging us to play Trick or Treat with our souls. Whether we accept it as true or not Satan wants a treat from us. He wants us to give him the pleasure of seeing us commit sin. Satan says: "Treat me by sinning against your neighbors to protect yourself. Treat me by sinning to enrich yourself at the expense of others. Treat me with a sinful attitude of hatred toward others. Treat me by developing a disobedient attitude toward God or even better, let's see you become a rebel who fights God and His church." These sins are treats to Satan, he gobbles them up like kids eating chocolate candy bars and then he licks his lips in joy and asks for more.

On the other hand, if you refuse to give Satan his sinful treats, he will play hurtful tricks on your soul. Satanic tricks are no more that spiritual temptations. The basic structures of Satan's temptations are: If you do wrong you will receive a benefit. If you commit a sin, you will be rewarded. Satan always dresses up his Tricks with the idea that the people you hurt do not matter or the people you hurt deserve to be hurt for what they or their ancestors have done in the past. Another deceptive lie Satan uses to dress up his tricks is: "don't worry God understands. He lies to you and says: "God knows you had to do this for your benefit." He whispers in your ear, "don't worry everything is going to be alright, no one will ever find out or know what you did."

Sometimes Satan customizes his tricks just for you. Here is the key, remember this: Satan is aware of your most aggravating issues. He knows how you feel about the most irritating people in your life. He is aware of the details involved in the most difficult issues you are facing in your career and personal life. Satan is aware of your most desirable experiences, your most egotistical goals, and your deepest hurts. Yes, Satan is aware of all these factors and with his lowdown dirty self, he packages his Tricks with not just one, or two, of these irritating factors but with combinations of three or more of them. He does not just hit you in your weakest area, he throws combinations. For example, Satan will take your anger and combine it with an opportunity to take advantage of someone. He will take your lust and combine it with your need for money, need I go on.

Remember Satan does not limit his spiritual trick or treats to Halloween, he works at it (24/7/365) twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred sixty-five days a year. Satan never takes time off, but you can shut him up and you can drive him away, if you do what the Bible teaches us to do.

First memorize and make it your practice when you sense or feel negativity toward other people and/or God to say to yourself: "*He that is within me is greater than he that is in the world*" (Based upon 1 John 4:4 (NRSV) Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.)

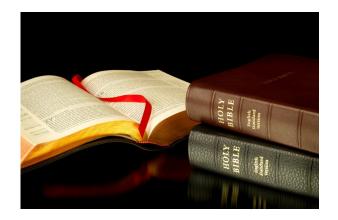
Second memorize and make it your practice when you feel tempted to say to yourself: "<u>Resist the</u> <u>devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you</u>." (Based upon James 4:7-8: Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.)

Third memorize and make it your practice when you feel something is not quite right or truthful to say to yourself: "*The devil is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*" (Based upon John 8:44 (NRSV) .You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.)

Instead of needlessly playing Trick or Treat with the Devil, feast on God's Word daily. Invest a little time and effort into growing Spiritually. Your return on investment will enrich your soul, strengthen your walk and give you unspeakable joy.

Have a Great November!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Spencer





COUNCIL MEMBERS 2022 :

Council Officers: President: John Taylor; Vice-President: David Beaver; Secretary: Eric Lamanna

Staff Support: John Taylor

Finance/Stewardship: Matt Kanupp

Planning: Seth Rollins

Outdoor Ministries: Eric Lamanna

Worship & Music: Justin Rubow

Outside Property/Cemetery: Jeremy Loadholdt

Inside Property: Josh Crisp

Social Ministry: Steve Hovis

Parish Education: David Beaver

Evangelism: Marsha Kinley

Hospitality: Gary Plonk

Youth: Susan Lineberger

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, December 11th—7:30 a.m.

Council members—I need your year-end report submitted by Dec. 31st . Thanks!

Send to: gail@stpaulsdallas.org



CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2022—2023

- Our teachers are Jeremy Loadholdt, Kelly Taylor, Susan Lineberger and Pastor Spencer.
- DATES: Nov. 6 & 20; Dec. 4 & 18;

Jan. 8 & 22; Feb. 5 & 19; March 5 & 19; April 2, 16 & 30; May 7

 Time: Sundays: 11:30-1:00 after worship lunch provided

Congratulations

Congratulations to

JAKE PARKER & ADDISON VINEYARD

David Beaver presented the Pastor's Scholar Award to Jake & Addison at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on October 23rd.

Sunday School Students who receive this award have mastered the following: Books of the Old & New Testaments; Psalm 23; Romans 3:28; The Apostles' Creed; John 3:16, The 10 Commandments; The 12 Disciples; The Lord's Prayer; The events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!



Congratulations to:

Camden Kanupp, Annabella Lamanna and Gabriella Porter

who are to be confirmed Sunday, October 30, 2022 at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. We are excited for these young people as they continue their faith journey with Jesus Christ among the saints at St. Paul's.

There will be a brief reception in their honor in Bollinger Hall on Oct. 30th after worship.



Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged...

Thank you for the cards, calls, and many other kind expressions of sympathy. The kind words and prayers of my church family mean a lot to me.

Jane Blanton



WELCA OFFICERS 2022

Women of the ELCA: President: Sandy Kennedy; VP: Susan Hutcherson; Secretary: Becky Paseur; Treasurer: Lisa Rubow

Mission Team: Donna Robinson, Jenny Eudy, Susan Lineberger

WELCA NEWS & EVENTS

- WELCA Mission Lunch—Nov. 6th immediately after worship in Bollinger Hall (soup & sandwiches). Mark & Karren Bollinger and Joe & Lynn Rhyne will talk about their trip to Guatemala. All proceeds go to Matthew 25:40.
- WELCA Board Meeting immediately after Mission Lunch on Nov. 6th
- Blossoms of Faith Circle Tues., Nov. 8th at 7 p.m. at the home of Patty Crisp.
- SW WELCA Conference Gathering @ Redeemer Lutheran on Nov. 12th @ 10 a.m. Fruit, Sweet Treats & Juice will be served. See Sandy Kennedy.
- WELCA Christmas Dinner & Program— Monday, December 5th in Bollinger Hall at 6:00 p.m. (light meal provided)—All women invited! See Sandy Kennedy with questions.



Our goal this year is to provide 50 \$75 gift cards to be distributed between Battleground and S. Ray Lowder Schools in Lincolnton. These gift cards will be given to families who need help purchasing food for Thanksgiving. Make checks payable to St. Paul's for "Project Turkey". Thanks for your support!

PROJECT TURKEY 2022



John & Kelly Taylor are working with the Middle/High School Youth Kelly's phone: 704-678-6419

- Lock-In & Youth Christmas Dinner Friday—December 2nd, 2022
- Middle/High School Youth & Men's Group sponsoring a Christmas Toy Drive. Bring a new toy to the church or give monetary donations—Checks to St. Paul's for "Toy Drive" or go to www.stpaulsdallas.org and use the on-line giving tab. All donations need to be in by Sun., Dec. 11th—Give-a-way Dec. 17th.



MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING - 3RD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH - 7:30 a.m.

MEN'S GROUP PRESIDENT: MATT STROUP / Email address: mttstrp@gmail.com



JOY GROUP OUTING

November 10th to Shiloh General Store in Hamptonville (5520 Saint Paul Church Rd.) - Shilohgeneralstorenc.com / Lunch in their deli and shop till we drop! If you'd like to ride or follow the van, meet at the church at 10 a.m. If you'd like to meet us at the store, we'll be there by 11:30 a.m. Please let me know in advance if you will be riding the van.





CLOTHING DRIVE HOLY COMMUNION LUTHEAN CHURCH

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022

We are focusing on winter clothing (sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, hats, gloves, etc.) but we will accept any gently used, clean clothing.

Call Ron or Amy Holland (704-813-0103) and we will meet you at Holy Communion to drop off your donations, or we can pick up.

Thanks again for helping meet this need in our community.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES:

Wednesdays: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

- Light meal begins at 6:30 p.m. with Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- Everyone encouraged to attend.



RELAY FOR LIFE

St. Paul's Relay Team, *Fishing for a Cure*, is raising money for the American Cancer Society. If you want to participate see Lisa Rubow or Kelly Ramey. Checks payable to The American Cancer Society—give to Lisa or Kelly.

Thanks to all who donated on Oct. 23rd at the Relay Lunch. Your generous donations totaled \$1,100 to the American Cancer Society!

Mark Your Calendar

Next Relay For Life Lunch planned for Jan. 22, 2023 immediately after worship in Bollinger Hall.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 6, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

We will light a candle to remember St. Paul's members who have entered the Church Triumphant since All Saints 2021:

Oscar Plonk, John Davis, Jerry Black, Lloyd Best, Carol Garrison, Jonathan Eudy, Vera Martin, James Goudelock, Shirley Black, Jill Robinson, Kay Cloninger Lee

Please join us in worship each week 10:30 a.m.



ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER TRAINING

Sunday, Nov. 6th @ 2:00 p.m. See Kelly Taylor with questions.



CALLING ALL VETERANS

SPLC will recognize veterans at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on

Sunday, November 13, 2022

We encourage EVERYONE to attend.



ANGEL TREE

Going up mid-November (50 angels from Lincoln Co. DSS) See Sandy Kennedy with questions.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Nov. 1 Kelli B. Owens

Nov. 3 Briley Robinson, Amy C. Seagle

Nov. 4 Henry Moffett

Nov. 8 Hannah Odem

Nov. 9 Helen Clemmer

Nov. 10 Susan Crisp, Anne Mitschke

Nov. 14 Gerry Cloninger, Emily Comer

Nov. 15 Katie Crocker, Laura Robinson

Nov. 16 Jane Blanton, Sue Comer

Nov. 18 LeAnne Withers

Nov. 21 John Beaty, Kay Lynn

Nov. 22 Otelia Huggins

Nov. 23 Tommy Withers

Nov. 24 Leigh Ann Brown

Nov. 26 Bobbie Cloninger

Nov. 27 Sandy Kennedy

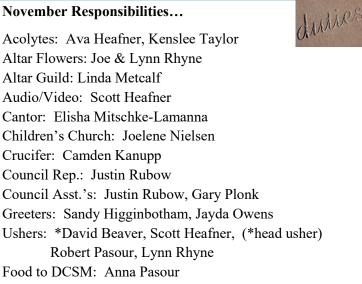


OUTREACH MINISTRIES...



- \Diamond Boy Scouts Troop 22 chartered at St. Paul's. Make donations by marking for "Troop 22";
- \Diamond Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministry: Crackers, Peanut Butter, Beenie Weenies-Always need peanut butter /crackers /soup & personal hygiene items- Bring these items to the church or mark donations for DCSM;
- Project Turkey...Make checks payable to St. Paul's for "Project Turkey" \Diamond
- \Diamond School Partnership Fund... The ALL Sunday School Class collects money to purchase hygiene and others personal items for students (formerly called Backpack Fund).
- \Diamond World Hunger...Mark donations accordingly:.
- \diamond ELCA Disaster Relief...Mark donations accordingly.

November Responsibilities...



Date: Reader

Date. Reauer	INUI SEI Y
Nov. 6 Sandy Higginbotham	Kelly Taylor, Dru Parker
Nov. 13 Resa Hoyle	Kelley Barker, Erika Ramiro
Nov. 20 Eric Lamanna	Katie Crocker, Kelly Taylor
Nov. 27 Becky Lamphiear	Dru Parker, Kelley Barker

Numerows

—Acolytes & Crucifers: Please contact Kelly Taylor (704-678-6419) if you are not able to serve. It's important

ONE CALL NOW... This is our messaging system. Only those who sign up are placed into the system. Please note that you will be receiving information from this telephone number 877-698-3261-If you "opt out" or block this number you will not be able to receive messages until you call the office to be re-instated.



ON-LINE GIVING...Easy Tithe/Ministry One

You can give a one-time donation or set it up to give recurring donations by going to St. Paul's website:

www.stpaulsdallas.org

Click on the "On-Line Giving" Tab and follow directions.

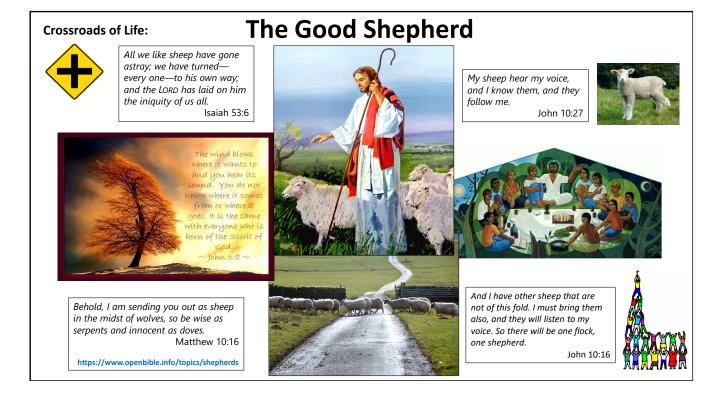
Or

You can give using your IPhone by downloading the app Ministry One-search for our church using our zip code of 28034 then follow the directions.

Or

Mail in your donations to 531 Hardin Road, Dallas NC 28034.

Thanks for your support!





POINSETTIAS (25 Ordered)

Cost: \$10.00 each

To reserve a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone fill out a form (in narthex) and drop in offering plate by Dec. 11th.

CHOIR NEWS

FROM ELISHA MITSCHKE-LAMANNA

- Handbell Choir Schedule: Sept.—May: (2nd & 4th Sundays @ 8:45 a.m.)
- Chancel Choir Schedule: Sept.—May: (5:00 p.m. each Sunday) Begins 9/11
- See Elisha Lamanna if you have questions. Her number is 704-692-7423

TIME/TALENT SHEETS 2023...

Please prayerfully consider how you can serve at St. Paul's. Time/Talent Sheets are in the narthex and in this newsletter. We use these sheets to schedule responsibilities for the year. We ask each member to fill out a form and place in marked box in the narthex or in offering plate by Dec. 4th. Thanks for your help!



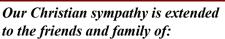
- Harvest Fellowship (covered dish meal)...<u>Sunday, Nov. 20th</u> at 5:00 p.m. The 2023 proposed budget will be presented.
- ♦ BOY SCOUT TROOP 22 FUNDRAISER LUNCH <u>Sunday, December 4th</u>—11:30 a.m. (Bollinger Hall) - Chili Beans & Veg. Soup—Everyone invited!
- CONGREGATIONAL APPRECIATION MEAL <u>Sunday, January 8, 2023</u> 11:30 a.m. after worship. Please sign up on sheet in the narthex by Dec. 31st if you plan to attend so that have enough food.
- RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER LUNCH <u>Sunday, January 22, 2023</u>— 11:30 a.m. after worship.
- SCOUT SUNDAY & FUNDRAISER LUNCH <u>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023</u>— Chicken 'n Dumplings—Everyone invited to stay after worship for Chicken 'n Dumplings in Bollinger Hall.
- OYSTER STEW St. Paul's Men's Group invites you for an Oyster Stew Dinner <u>Sun.</u>, <u>Feb. 26, 2023</u> at 5:00 p.m. in Bollinger Hall. Plan to attend!

Memorials & Gifts...

- In memory of Jonathan Eudy given by: Mariah Quinn Porter
- In memory of Jill Robinson & Kay Cloninger Lee given by: Jane Blanton
- In memory of Marilyn Campbell (Jane Blanton's sister) given by: Kathryne Liddle (Project Turkey)
- In memory of Kay Cloninger Lee given by: Kathryne Liddle (Project Turkey); Carolyn Gregg
- In memory of Kay Cloninger Lee given by: Wendy Rollins; Marsha Kinley (van fund)
- In memory of Erica Mezezers given by: Mariah Q. Porter (Spirit)



In Iemory of....



- Jill Robinson who died 10/1/22
- Kay Cloninger Lee who died 10/7/22
- Judd Harrelson,, Tina Heafner's nephew, who died 10/24/22

Please keep the families in your prayers.

Prayer List

PRAYER LIST

Call the office to have a name added or removed.

<u>In the armed forces</u>: Jordan Barker; Joshua Best, Austin Earle; Mark & Thor Gignac; Blake Hughes; Coty Land; Gregory Tyler III

Home-bound/Assisted Living/Rehabilitation:

Betty Bumgarner, Courtland Terrace—Room 84 , 2300 Abeerdeen Blvd., Gastonia NC 28054 (704-671-6886)
Carrie Cloninger, TerraBella, 1550 Charles Road, Shelby NC 28152
Gene & Lou Collins, 715 Narrow Gauge Rd., Dallas NC 28034
Jean Dover, Covenant Village—Room 106A, 1351 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054
Ted & Frances Goins, 728 Klumac Road, Apt. 126B, Salisbury, NC 28144
Pauline Guess, 226 Elizabeth Lane, Dallas, NC 28034
Betty Faye Lineberger, 423 Ike Lynch Road, Dallas, NC 28034
Betty Paseur, Brookdale Robinwood-Room 36, 1750 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054
Martha Pasour, Woodlawn Haven Rest Home, 301 Craig Street, Mt. Holly, NC 28120
Todd Stillwell @ Mt. Ridge, 810 King Arthur Dr., Gastonia, NC 28056
Sally Terres, Covenant Village-Room A113, 1351 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

<u>Our Members</u> Mardie Best, Marlene Cloninger, Lou Collins, Grace Harbin, Susan Holbrooks, David & Linda Hoyle, Alan Hutcherson, Ann Keever, Myra Lineberger, Kay & Malcolm Lynn, Louise McManus, Henry Moffett, Sandy Plonk, Danny Safrit, Pat Sellers, Emilie Sides, Chris Thornburg, the families of: Oscar Plonk, Jerry Black, Lloyd Best, Carol Garrison, Jonathan Eudy, Vera Martin, James Goudelock, Shirley Black, Jill Robinson, Kay Cloninger Lee and all who mourn the loss of a loved one

Friends & Family: (Names removed after 1 month – you can fill out a prayer card or call the office to add to *this list):* Dan Blanton, Nancy Bollinger, Marybelle Bryne, Scott Collier, Marietta Disher, CRU Military, Nancy Friday, Tony Friday, Sharon Gibson, John & Joann Gignac, Ann Huff, Donna Lazar, Gary, Hunter & Monica MacConnell, Dale Robinson, Harry & Margaret Runyon, Carol Stroup, Caroline Walker, the family of Judd Harrelson, and all who are mourning the loss of a loved one



Where Have We Gone

Since the pandemic more of our ministries will likely be online than those who just "want everything to go back to normal" might hope. The church as virtual messenger leaps over barriers of physical distance. Congregations can join for worship. Far-away speakers can lead workshops. Perspectives can be shared across the miles. But there is another dynamic at work even before the pandemic and the sudden inability to interact face to face provoked momentous disruption in the education, retail, hospitality, and entertainment.

The continued decline in worship attendance across all faith denominations has been on the rise for the last several years and conflict seems to be one of the root causes. Someone shared with me a story about interviewing a person for an open position in their congregation. "So, what interests you in this position at our church? "Well," she replied, "I've worked in an office for several years now, and I'm honestly just sick and tired of how people can treat each other so terribly, so when I saw this position advertised, I thought, 'Wow, wouldn't it be great to work in a place where everybody always gets along for a change!" She must have never read St. Augustine's daily prayer from the 5th century "Lord, save us from the forces of evil and from all these Christians."

Conflict damages or destroys teams, ministries, missions, vibrancy — occurs when we as the people of God forget who we are, why we're here, and where we're going in carrying out the mission. Yes, people disagree, even in the church. Indeed, whenever "two or three are gathered" in Jesus's name, it seems like there's bound to be a fight. Yet when we begin to focus more on ourselves — our needs, our preferences — and less on the wants, needs, and preferences of our sisters and brothers in faith, not to mention those we are trying to reach with the gospel, the ensuing conflicts can be deadly for a congregation. Faithful followers of Jesus understand conflict as an opportunity to remember who they are in Christ, why they're here, and where they're going on their mission.

Churches are the heartbeat of their communities and neighborhoods. The preferred site of weddings and funerals, they offer spiritual community and support to people in transition. They are extremely important institutions in small towns — as essential as the gas station, grocery store, bank, hospital, and post office. Successfully leading through conflict toward a transformative end will always bear exponential dividends, empowering a congregation's witness within its community and beyond.

Our job is not to resolve conflict. Our job is to develop healthier ways for our congregation to carry out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and showing our neighbors that love can, in fact, transform the world. Conflicts are contexts within which that equipping, and discipling can take place.

Scott Rubow

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Telephone: 704-922-4387

gail@stpaulsdallas.org emlamanna@gaston.k12.nc.us

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. John H. Spencer Telephone # 201-981-6173 E-mail: drjhsjr@gmail.com E-mail: john. spencer@stpaulsdallas.org

The Rev. John and Mrs. Debra Spencer

2004 Red Leaf Court

Dallas NC 28034

Newsletter information should be turned in no later than the 15th of each month. Thanks for your help.



We're on the Web:

www.stpaulsdallas.org

See the online calendar at www.stpaulsdallas.org to view up--coming events and activities. Non-Profit Org.

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PERMIT #1

Council Elections & Budget Information

- Annual congregational meeting begins 11/13 where we begin the process of electing council members;
- The 2023 proposed budget will be presented at the Harvest Fellowship covered dish meal on Sunday, Nov. 20th at 5:00 p.m. in Bollinger Hall;
- The 2023 proposed budget will be voted on Nov. 27th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.





Please use your assigned envelopes or an envelope in the pew rack for your donations. Using envelopes helps with the process of counting and recording monies.

Check out our on-line giving option: go to our website www.stpaulsdallas.org or go directly to www.easytithe.com/dl/? uid=st531296 to register your account. On-line giving guides in narthex.



Help us keep our buildings secure. Please be sure to lock the doors after your group uses the buildings. Doors have to be pushed to be sure locks engage. Thank you!



MISSION STATEMENT:

At St. Paul's, we are committed to serve as faithful children of God as a part of a connected family of believers.



- Church Office Hours: Sept. –May: Monday— Thursday; 8 a.m.—2:30 pm
- However, it's always a good idea to call ahead to be sure our schedule has not changed.