

For All The Saints



*The Epistle of St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, Texas
December 2024*

And the Word became flesh

*In the cold hours of the night just before dawn, silent by the window
In the swift touch of a long-loved hand
In the leaf-piles of the yard, watching the dog and the Christmas lights
In the long line at the pharmacy window
In the cup of eggnog poured out in a warm corner
In the poorly wrapped gift fastened with extra pieces of packing tape.*

*The Word lived among us
stopping by the gas station
practicing the choir anthem
logging onto the website.*

*And we have seen His glory
in candlelight and pews and manger scenes, yes
but also in grocery lists and homework schedules
crossword puzzles and coffee cups
fish curry
piano quintets.*

*And from His fullness we have all received
grace upon grace upon grace upon grace upon grace.*

With that said, we wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year as we share with you our Christmas Greetings, not in the form of a Christmas card, but in our church family's newsletter. We do that with the prayer that in this Christmas season you may, with us, rejoice in the greatest gift of all that has been given to us by our loving Heavenly Father in the person of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We wish you the wonderful peace of His presence and the everlasting joy of His love, not only in these days of Advent and Christmas, but each day of your lives.

Barbara Gaskamp

Ella Nora Sohns

Sy and Sherry Hartgrove

Gina Krause

Doris Symm

Alan and Audrey Abel

Randy and Billie Winkler

Bill and Trish Rogge

Stan and Janice Dake

Walter and Daisy Sohns, Jr.

Ted and Beverly Winkler

Pastor, Deb, Michelle, Michael, Rebecca, AnnaBella, and Mikayla Heckmann

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up for weeks now. I went into a Wal-Mart a couple of weeks ago already looking for something in the “garden department” and there was not thing one in that department that was not Christmas related. I imagine the children have already been making their Christmas wish lists as well. I know a few adult children who have already dropped a hint or two that this or that would be something that could be found on their wish list for Christmas. In fact our granddaughter AnnaBella visited with us a week or so ago asking questions like, “What is your favorite color?” and things along that line. I imagine a gift is in the planning stages.

That is all exciting stuff. And then, since I have a lot of Mr Scrooge in me, it won't be that many days from now and we will be tired of all of this Christmas silliness. We will wonder why there is so much going on, including even at church. It also won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, that is, if we still have a “live” tree. The stockings will be emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over, and not a moment too soon.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Day after day, and moment after moment our Father in heaven repeatedly shares with us the gift of forgiveness. Like Christmas presents, it is not something we deserve. It is a gift that is freely given to us over and over again!

In the hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) we sing these words.

*Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. No, what comes naturally for children, and sadly for adults as well, is to think and whole heartedly believe, that the world revolves around me. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need to be reminded over and over again, yes, even daily and even a few times each day, that Jesus did not consider “*equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself*” for us, even giving His perfect life in our place on the cross. (Philippians 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

The verse of the hymn goes on to say,

*That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”
assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, we really own nothing. It is all His on loan to us for a time. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the freshly unwrapped toy as theirs. We know the exclamation well. . . "MINE!" As Psalm 24:1 says, *"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."* There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

Prayer:

Forgive my shallow thankfulness Lord, even as You fill me to overflowing with all good things from Your bountiful hands. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen!

In HIS service and yours,


Pastor Heckmann
Hebrews 13:20-21

NEW SERIES OF ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

If you would still be interested in joining us for these classes, you are welcome to join us this afternoon, November 24th at 2:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room in the Family Activity Center.

As a refresher as to what these classes are, they are a way for adults to study the teachings of the Bible and the teachings of our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They are open to members and non-members alike. They are a good refresher course for anyone who was Confirmed more than five years ago or who hasn't had a refresher course in the last five years. They are also the way for adults wanting to join The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and our congregation to do just that. The classes last about 90 minutes each week, depending on how lively the discussion is. The 90 minutes are spent in discussing the teachings of the church as they are given to us in the Holy Bible. There is no homework or memory work, unless you find a verse or two you would like to commit to memory. If you have any questions, please let me know. **If you would like to join us, please let me know.** If you know of someone else who might want to join us, please let him/her and me know. I think you can ask anyone who has taken these classes before and will learn that they are a fun way to learn again the teachings of God's holy Word.

OFFICER TRAINING WORKSHOP AND PLANNING MEETING

Following their installation and reaffirmation of willingness to serve their church family, **ALL Officers, Boards, Committees, Groups, Money Counters, Youth Group members, Sunday School teachers, etc.,** will gather for a time of instruction on what each Board and Committee is to be doing in the Year of our Lord 2025. This time of instruction and planning will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. This time of learning and planning includes everyone who serves in our congregation. The date of this mandatory time of training and planning is Saturday, January 4, 2025.



All Things Advent and Christmas

Here is a reminder of some of the things that may be helpful for you as you plan the hectic month ahead making sure to carve out the time to be at the Lord's House in this month in which we celebrate once again the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. That after all is what it is all about.

The most important decision to make in our planning is: on what portion of God's Word are we going to base this whole Advent and Christmas season. Here is the answer as I tell you about the Advent Sermon series, from which the Children's Christmas Eve Service will flow.

ADVENT SERMONS

The theme for our Advent Series and Children's Christmas Eve Service this year will be **His Name Shall Be Called**. Here is what we will be studying each Wednesday of Advent, the Lord willing it.

At our first midweek Advent service (December 4th) we will consider one of Jesus' names, **Wonderful Counselor**. This is a title given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Together we will learn how God rescues us from the cunning counsel of the devil and blesses us with the wonderful counsel of His Son whose Word of truth sets us free from sin and its damning deception (see John 8:31).

At our second midweek Advent service (December 11th) we will concentrate on the name **Mighty God**. This is a title given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Together we will learn from Scripture that Jesus is more than a mere human who was a great teacher or a popular hero. Jesus was and is God in human flesh. We will also learn why it is important for us to believe that Jesus was and is God in human flesh.

At our third midweek Advent service (December 18th) we will consider the name **Everlasting Father**. This is a title given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. As a family we will learn why Jesus is called "Father" even though He is the eternal Son of the Father. We will also learn why Jesus is called "Everlasting." Finally, we will learn why Jesus' title "Everlasting Father" is such a great comfort to us—especially when we face trials or suffering in this world.

And on Christmas Eve (December 24th) we will consider the name **Prince of Peace**. This is a title given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. We will learn why we long for peace in this world but fail to obtain it. We will also learn how Jesus, the "Prince of Peace," gives us peace with God through His sacrifice for us, which also results in believers being at peace with one another.

MIDWEEK RELIGION AND CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Don't forget that our classes on December 4th, 11th, and 18th will begin at 6:20 p.m. and last until 7:20 p.m., at which time we will head to the church to worship together. Also remember that if your student wants to eat at church those nights, they need to be here at 6:00 p.m. (There will be no meals served upstairs.)

ARCHIVED SERMONS ON THE WEB

Just to remind you, our services and sermons are posted on the web each week. Go to www.stpaulthegrove.org, click "Connect", click "Vimeo", and then click on the sermon you would like to see. If you have questions, please ask.

WORSHIP IN THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

We will offer you many opportunities to worship in the month of December. (Just as a fun fact, this year is one of those few years where the whole season of Advent and Christmas are all contained in the month of December.) As you look at your church calendar I would encourage you not to pick just one or two of these services to be a part of, but to plan your time in such a way that you and your family can be a part of all of them. They will all be different and they will all have meaning to you as we, together, prepare for and celebrate the greatest gift of them all, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am asked each year, and interestingly enough, not by the same person, **“Why do we have to have so many services in this busy month of December.”** The answer, we offer you all of these different worship opportunities for that is what this busy month of December is really all about. The question above points out the fact that we so often forget what it is all about, and if it were not for the coming of the Christ child, this month would be like any other.

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE, AND LUNCHEAS AND SUPPERS SCHEDULE

Each Wednesday in the season of Advent (December 4th, 11th, and 18th) we will gather with the other members of our church family for all or part of the following schedule. The **Morning Midweek Advent Services** will begin at 10:30 a.m., with lunch to follow. The **Advent Suppers** on those Wednesday evenings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last until 7:00 p.m. Our **Midweek Religion** classes will begin at 6:20 p.m. and last until 7:20 p.m. There will be no Men’s or Ladies’ Evening Bible studies these weeks. After our Midweek Religion and Confirmation classes, we will gather for our **Midweek Advent Services** in the church beginning at 7:30 p.m. We hope to have you back on your way home to get ready for the next day around 8:15 p.m.

To let you know about the Advent meals we can tell you that the Quilters will be serving all the morning Advent meals. The evening meals look like this: the LWML will prepare the meal on the 4th, the LYF will prepare the meal on the 11th, and the FACT students will prepare and serve the meal on the 18th. Sadly at this time I am not able to tell you what each group will be serving. You can ask me as the dates get closer. **Each group will be receiving a free-will offering for the meal not just to cover their expenses, but to help fund the work they do among us at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** With that in mind I will be so bold as to ask you to think about your freewill offering as you consider what it would cost you to eat out even at McDonald’s or places like that. The meal here will be far better, as will be the fellowship, as we await the time to worship together.

CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Please join us in the FAC on December 1st for our annual Congregational and Community Christmas Dinner with the added attraction this year of **A Night in Bethlehem** with all of the booths and crafts and such. The festivities will begin following our worship service. The meal will be provided. You are asked to bring your favorite dessert.

JOINT CELL GROUP (Small Group Bible Study)

Sunday, December 8th, all of the Cell Groups will gather together at The Feed Mill for a time of food, fellowship and fun. To help us in our planning, please sign up on the appropriate sheet of paper in the Narthex if you plan to join us. If you have any questions, let me know.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

In the current world that tells us our Christmas tree must be called a “holiday” tree and it cannot have any religious ornaments and no “Christian” decorations at the parties; it is important we do everything we can to keep Christ the center of the CHRISTMAS season!

With that in mind, we will once again go Christmas Caroling on December 8th. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for you to let us know you will be joining us and to help us plan the pre-caroling meal and for the festivities to follow.

CHRISTMASS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Our traditional Christmass Eve Candlelight Service will begin at 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. This is a service that is much different from the rest as we have the opportunity to spend a little quiet time remembering what Christmas is really all about. We also have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper in this special service. The service always concludes with the congregation lighting their candles and singing Silent Night by candlelight. I invite you to join us as we pause for a little while to catch our breath between the events of early Christmas Eve evening and the anticipated events of Christmas morning to spend some time contemplating the birth of our Savior.

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

As you can see we are striving to offer you many opportunities to enhance your celebration of this most blessed season of Advent and Christmas. I encourage you, even as you add all of the other things the world says you need to add in these coming weeks, that you also carve out the time to celebrate the true reason for the season as you give witness to your family and your friends through your words and actions just what it means to you to be a redeemed child of God through faith in this One whose birth we celebrate. It promises to be a most glorious season. Thanks for taking the ride with me and your church family. I am looking forward to it one more time.

HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN FROM CENTRAL TEXAS CHRISTMAS EDITION

The Christmas Edition of this wonderful witnessing tool has been published and is on the table in the Narthex for you to pick up and share with others as you invite them to God's House in this Advent/Christmas Season. If we run out, we will print more, so take as many as you need to get the message into the hands of those who need to hear it. I am excited to tell you that this is now in its **fifty first printing. That means that some 5,000 copies of this brochure have been handed out. To God be all the glory.** Who would have ever thought that this many copies would have already been handed out? Who knows what the Holy Spirit is doing through these witnessing tools? Also, be sure to share with me your stories about how this little tool has made a difference in the lives of others and in your witness to them.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

We will gather Thanksgiving Eve, November 27th, for our Annual Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Following the worship service, we will meet in the FAC for a Finger Food Feast. You are asked to bring your favorite finger foods and desserts to share. Let's gather as a church family to worship and give God thanks and praise for His bounty of blessings to us and then gather in the Family Activity Center to enjoy excellent food and fellowship.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The request was made by some in our congregation who are homeschooling their children to have this time of worship together. We are gearing the worship experience to the younger set. Each Thursday finds us singing a hymn or two, having a Bible reading or two or three, and a Children's Sermon/Object Lesson type of sermon.

Everyone is invited to join us for this time of worship whether or not you home school your children or even have children at home to bring along. This time of worship is for everyone who is free at that hour and would like to be involved.

As always, if you have any questions, please ask.



ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY

Altar Guild Ministry offers a wonderful opportunity for ladies of our congregation to be involved with a part of our worship preparation by creating a welcoming and pleasant experience for all who gather to worship with us.

We are not an exclusive club. We invite you to join the Altar Guild. The main responsibilities of the Altar Guild are keeping the chancel and surrounding area in order, changing and maintaining the paraments, candles, and banners, stripping the altar on Maundy Thursday (if you would like to be involved. It is not a requirement for service), and decorating for the Christmas season of the church year.

Below is an excerpt from The Altar Guild Manual, by Lee A. Maxwell. Lee Maxwell does a great job of explaining the work of the Altar Guild.

"The Altar Guild is to serve. It serves by making sure that the place of worship is maintained and set up for the times and seasons of the church year. It serves by seeing to it that the paraments and linens are put out, cleaned, and stored appropriately. All this, not for themselves, but for the glory of God and the building up of his people."

If serving God in this way is of interest to you, please contact Brandy Wrisk or Tricia Michalk who will be serving as our Altar Guild Coordinators this year and are putting together the 2025 monthly schedule.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCH PARTY

It is our tradition to join in the FAC following the early New Year's Eve Worship service for a time of finger foods/snacks, games and fellowship.

We invite each of you to join us for as much of that time as you care to share with us, along with your family and friends. Then at 11:45 p.m., we will join together in the church to ring out the old year and ring in the new. It is a fun time and enjoyed by all who stay for the evening. You are invited to bring your favorite food to share with

the group, along with any games you may enjoy playing with us or teaching us.



GREETERS

It is time once again to print a new greeter's list. If you wish to serve God in this way, please consider being a greeter. If you would like to know more about what they do before you sign up, here is a brief description of their service. These are the folks that make the first impression on the visitors to our worship services. Each Sunday we have two "official greeters" to meet and greet the saints as they come to worship. If you would be willing to serve in this capacity the time commitment would be one month a year. We will offer a training session to give you the tools you need to serve effectively in this ministry. If you would like to be one, please let Pastor Heckmann know.

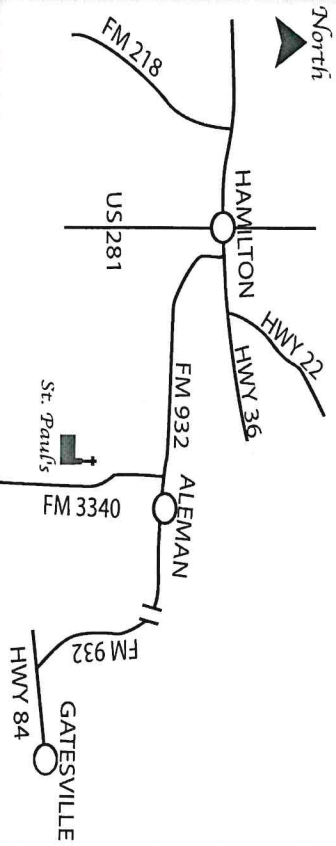
Willkommen
ZUM DEUTSCHEN WEHNACHTLICHEN
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELISCH - LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE

Welcome
TO
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR A
GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE

AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SATURDAY EVENING - LUNCHEON AND FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER 14 AT 3:00 P.M.
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC BEGINS AT 4:30 P.M.
GERMAN SERVICE AND TREE LIGHTING 5:00 P.M.
WITH REV. SCHEY
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH,
1446 FM 3340, ALEMAN, TX.
(LOCATED 7 MILES SE OF HAMILTON VIA FM 932)
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
REV. DON POOLE - 806-576-1216



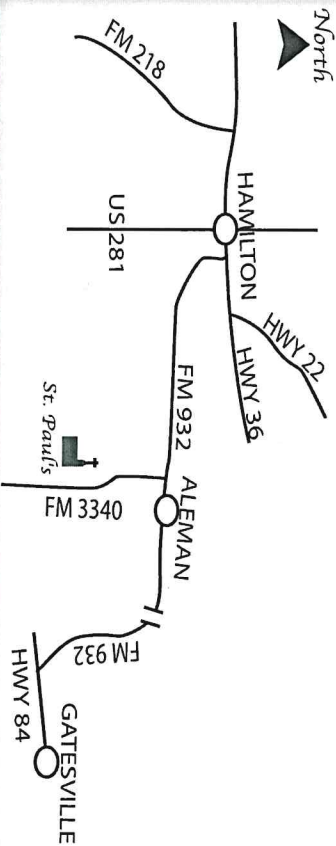
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Sunday School News

By: Kathy Smith, Sunday School Superintendent

Perfect Attendance for October 2024

Cooper Munz	Lillian Penny	Titus Boswell	Evelynn Penny
Asher Boswell	Ziyon Turner	Chloe Boswell	Ethan Boswell

December Birthdays

Naomi Bahnsen – 1 st	Tabitha Morrow – 2 nd	Adriel Espino – 9 th
Ethan Glynn – 9 th	Antany Whisenant – 15 th	Jasiah Turner – 22 nd

Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to you!!!

December Baptism Birthdays

Isaac Morris – 8 th	Tabitha Morrow – 13 th	Brylee Winkler – 23 rd
Naomi Bahnsen – 24 th	Antany Whisenant – 30 th	

Happy Baptism Birthday and God's Spiritual Blessings to you!!!

Memory Work for December

December 1: Bless the LORD, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. Psalm 103:2,4

December 8: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Luke 1:46-47

December 15: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. Luke 1:68

December 22: For unto you is born a Savior. Luke 2:11.

December 29: My eyes have seen your salvation. Luke 2:30

Prayer Partners

We are looking for new adult prayer partners. Please give this prayerful consideration and contact Kathy Smith if you are interested or have questions. For our existing prayer partners, please remember to contact your prayer partner monthly. For questions or concerns, please call or text Kathy Smith, 512-773-4037. **Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Offerings

October: You donated \$324.67 for Operation Christmas Child in addition to 18 gift boxes.

November: So far you have donated \$285.53 Rainbow Room

December: Priceless Beginnings

January: Helping Hands – Hygiene Items

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Thank you for all your love and support with these mission projects!!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 1: Night in Bethlehem

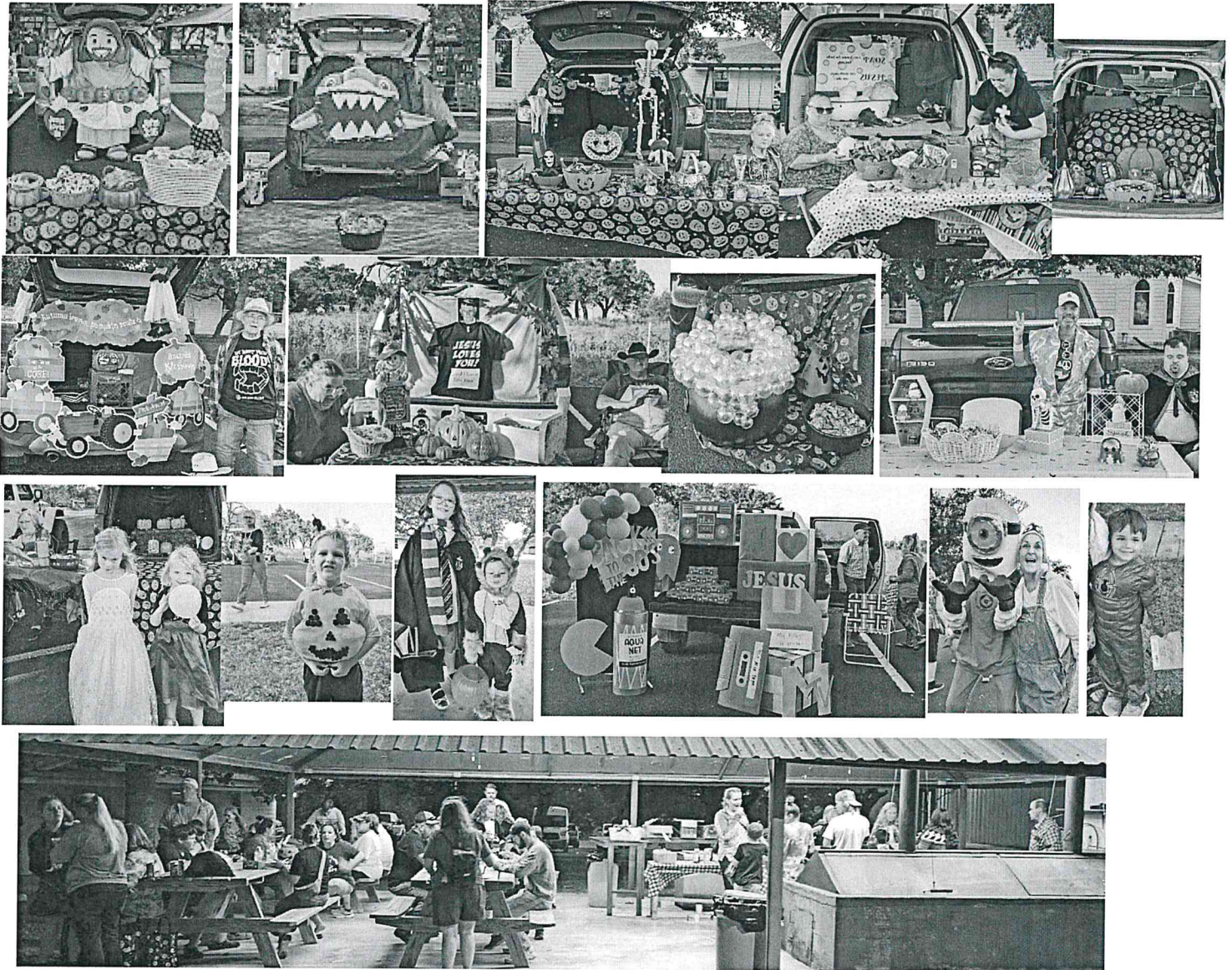
Sundays, December 8th and 15th: Christmas Eve Service Rehearsals

Sunday, December 22 & Tuesday, December 24: Sunday School Christmas Eve Service

Sunday School Event Additional Information

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat was so much fun, and the weather was perfect! There were great trunks, awesome costumes and good food! Thanks to all that helped make this such a success. Here are a few pictures:

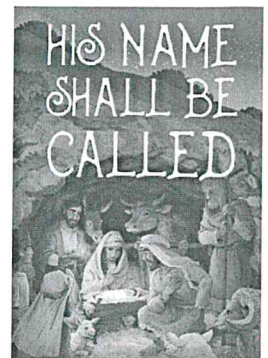


Sunday School Christmas Eve Service

Kelli Alsop will be leading the Sunday School kids in the Christmas Eve Service and rehearsals again this year. We encourage all Sunday School kids to fully participate and come to all rehearsals if at all possible. Children with speaking parts have received a copy to practice at home, please encourage them and help them to do so.

Rehearsals will be immediately after the worship service in the sanctuary on December 8th and 15th.

The children will present the Christmas Eve Service twice, once on Sunday December 22nd immediately after the worship service and on December 24th, Christmas Eve, at 7:00 p.m.





By: Brianna Boswell

December Bible Study and Business Meeting

The next LWML business meeting will be on December 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the FAC. The Bible Study will be “Christ’s Steadfastness: The Apostle’s Creed – Second Article” by Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley in the Fall LWML Quarterly 2024. Every Sunday we confess our faith either by the Apostle’s Creed or Nicene Creed. This is a wonderful Bible study that will dive deeper into what we publicly confess in church and to the world.

I believe in Jesus Christ... What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. Luther’s Small Catechism, The Apostles’ Creed, Second Article

December Mission Project

This month’s mission project will be collecting winter items for Feed my Sheep. These items include socks, beanies, hand and toe warmers, water bottles, waterproof blankets, waterproof ponchos, and gloves. There will be a box in the parish hall. Any or all items would be appreciated!

December Mission Grant Recipients

Every month we gather mites. The LWML uses these funds to give grants out to organizations whose focus is to help our neighbors while sharing God’s Word, ultimately extending God’s kingdom. Below are our two recipients highlighted for December:

Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church — Lutheran Family Services, U.S. \$106,000

God directs the church to care for those He calls to serve in ministry. Church workers and their families regularly face unprecedented stress, challenges, and suffering which affects their physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual well-being. There is an urgent need for the church to support and care for church workers. This grant will help increase their ministry team of masters-level, licensed therapists who will provide marriage and family counseling that is Christ-centered.

Life Connection Events and Kits — Lutherans for Life \$70,000

The mission of Lutherans for Life (LFL) is to renew hearts with the Word of the Lord and to receive every human being as a sister or brother with whom we may share God’s everlasting blessings. Life issues like an unplanned pregnancy or a terminal diagnosis offer us mission moments. LFL has learned that youth and students gravitate toward activity-oriented involvement and have developed a framework consisting of two elements — namely, pilot events and "event-in-a-box" kits designed to intentionally connect young adults with seasoned local Life Teams, Life Chapters, and LFL pioneers. Participants will learn to conduct life-affirming education and service in their own neighborhoods. This grant will provide funds to support the outreach effort to young adults to encourage their involvement in LFL Life Teams and Life Chapters.

C.L.A.S.S.I.C.S.

(morning Bible study held on the 3rd Thursday of the month)

By: Sherry Hartgrove

The CLASSICS met for Bible Study and fellowship with Pastor Heckmann on Thursday, November 21, 2024. Eighteen met to begin the study of The Great Sending by Will Sohns.

Pastor Heckmann led the group through the Preface and Introduction. We read the narratives from five different contributors on how to go and participate in sharing the Gospel. As stated by Jesus in John 17:18, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." Jesus sends His followers to share God's message.

At the end of our Bible study, we sang the traditional Birthday Song for November to Sue Brown. A "salad potluck" was then enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone for providing salads, desserts, and homemade bread.

Our next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2024. The December noon meal, provided by Pastor and Deb Heckmann, will consist of the traditional Christmas turkey and dressing. To complement the main dish, members will provide the following dishes--broccoli (Sue), green beans (Pam), squash casserole (Sherry), and noodles (Janice). Gina, Catherine, and Barbara will provide the desserts. The rest of the members will provide additional side dishes and desserts.

Next month, we will continue reading The Great Sending. It will be an opportune time to join The CLASSICS group. **It is open to EVERYONE**. COME AND JOIN US!!!



The CLASSICS group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Multiple Purpose Room and is an opportunity to spend more time in the Word of God with fellow believers. Lunch and fellowship follow the study session.

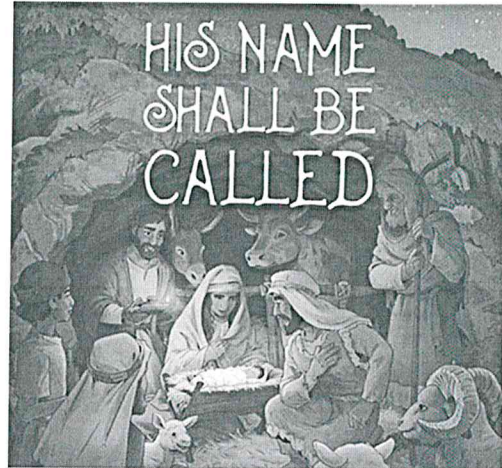
DECEMBER 2024

Birthdays

1 Naomi Bahnsen	17 Lauren Tatum
1 Daniel Sharp	19 Curt Offen
2 Tabitha Morrow	20 Holly Sohns
2 Johnathan VanWinkle	22 Gary Reynolds
2 Susan Dossey	22 Jasiah Turner
3 Chelsey Phillips	22 Cadence Williams
5 Emi Ralston	22 Beverly Wood
5 Mavis Shafer	23 Beverly Winkler
5 Wayne Tatge	24 Cory Roberts
5 Tony Wightman	25 Bob Proft
7 Orville Michalk	26 Jacob Michalk
9 Adriel Espino	27 James Terrell
9 Andrew Peebles	27 Lloyd Arldt
9 Ethan Glynn	27 Glenn Winkler
11 Rebekah Munz	27 Nathan Michalk
12 Ethan Blankemeier	29 Brenda Arldt
13 Renee Owen	30 Joshua Watson
14 Larry Luedke	31 Jeremy Munz
15 Antany Whisenant	31 Tina Reynolds

Anniversaries

1 Walter and Daisy Sohns
15 Eric and Candice Bahnsen
18 James and Faye Morrow



*(If your birth date or anniversary date is listed incorrectly, please let the church office know.
If it is not included here, please share that information as well.)*

SERVING IN DECEMBER

FLOWERS FOR MONTH

1. Mike and Diana Lockhart
8.
15. Miriam Winkler
22. Poinsettias
29. Poinsettias

GREETERS

Robert and Nora Morrow

ALTAR GUILD

Mary Thoe and Amy Velasquez

USHERS

*James Morrow, Bob Bangsund,
John Munz, Travis Smith

ORGANIST

Miriam Winkler

MONEY COUNTER & HELPER

Cindy Bond and Lawanda Filyaw

CEMETERY CARETAKERS

The Wilbert Pietsch and Clarence Heiner Families

HISTORICAL CEMETERY

Bobby Joe and Beverly Wood

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Manny Velasquez

ACOLYTES

1. Anna Whisenant	4. Sydney Golden
8. Andreas Reigle	11. Anna Whisenant
15. Sydney Golden	18. Andreas Reigle
22. Anna Whisenant	25. Sydney Golden
29. Andreas Reigle	

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 First Sunday in Advent Bible Studies 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Children's Practice 11:30 a.m. Church Council Meeting 11:30am</p> <p>Christmas Banquet Noon Night in Bethlehem to follow</p> <p>Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm</p> <p>8 Second Sunday in Advent Bible Studies 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Children's Practice 11:30 a.m. Christmas Caroling & Meal 11:30 a.m. Joint Cell Group at The Feed Mill Noon Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm</p> <p>15 Third Sunday of Advent Bible Studies 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion 10:15 am LYF Meeting 11:30 a.m. Children's Practice 11:30 a.m. Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm</p> <p>22 Fourth Sunday in Advent Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Christmas Eve Children's Service Noon Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm</p> <p>29 First Sunday after Christmas Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 Artesian Ministries Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>16 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>23 Board of Ed Fruit Bag assembly 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>30</p>	<p>3 Circuit Pastors Conference – Trinity, Copperas Cove 8:30 Quilting Bee 9:00 a.m. - Noon Board of Ed Meeting 5:00 p.m. Board of Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>10 Worship Service at The Meadows 10:00 a.m. Worship Service at Hillside Nursing Home 11:00 a.m. Voters' Assembly Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>17 Quilting Bee 9:00 a.m. - Noon LWML Bible Study and Meeting in the Multipurpose Room 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Children's Service 7:00 p.m. Christmass Communion 11:00</p> <p>31 New Year's Eve Service and Installation of Officers 7:00 pm Watch Party 8:00pm Midnight Worship Service 11:45 p.m.</p>	<p>4 Midweek Advent Service 10:30 a.m. Noon Meal-Quilters Advent Supper by LWML 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Midweek Classes 6:20 - 7:20 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>11 Midweek Advent Service 10:30 a.m. Noon Meal-Quilters Advent Supper by LYF 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Midweek Classes 6:20 - 7:20 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>18 Midweek Advent Service 10:30 a.m. Noon Meal-Quilters Advent Supper by FACT 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Midweek Classes 6:20 - 7:20 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>25 Christmas Day Christmas Day Worship Service 10:00 a.m. No Wednesday Bible Studies, classes, events, meals and/or worship services</p>	<p>5 Chapel Service 4:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>12 Chapel Service 4:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>19 CLASSICS Christmas Dinner, Study & Party 10:00 a.m. Chapel Service 4:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>13</p> <p>20</p> <p>26 Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>27</p>	<p>7 14 FACT Skating at Wheels Skating in Temple Noon German meal at St. Paul's, Aleman 3:00 p.m. German Service at St. Paul's 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>21</p> <p>28</p> <p>St. Paul Lutheran Church-MS 220 The Grove Road Gatesville, Texas 76528 Office Phone: 986-2607 Email: pastor@stpaulthegrove.org Web: www.stpaulthegrove.org Twitter: @LWMLPrHeckmann</p>