

For All The Saints



The Epistle of St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, Texas

January 2025

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it might hold.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

St. Paul tells us many things in those words, one of which I do believe is that the work God does in us will strengthen us and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce in us (and in others) thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your past as we together look forward to the future as a part of this family of faith we know as St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove.

First things first in this New Year, attend the services of the Lord's House to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. As I will say later in this Newsletter, look also to where you can increase your time in the study of God's Word, either here at the church with fellow believers, or at home through my morning devotions or Portals of Prayer or with your family through the My Devotion and/or Happy Times magazines your family receives if you have children at home, or whatever Bible study may help guide and strengthen you in the faith. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word and to receive the assurance of your forgiveness and place in the Kingdom of God, and also to strengthen your faith, then make it a priority to come to the House of the Lord to receive these most wonderful and life giving gifts.


Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your privilege as a redeemed child of God is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, whenever and from where ever you would like. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His leading faithfully (John 15:1-16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It receives the mercy of the Father by the death and resurrection of His Son, our Savior, through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It, the church, a.k.a. you and me, then shares this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but one who takes this same grace and mercy into the world to share with all those with whom you cross paths in any given day.

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to joyfully return to the Lord a portion of that with which He has blessed you in each of those eight areas of life I love to share with you. The first three we hear all the time, proportionate giving of our time, talents, and treasures. I love to add the other 5 T's. In my way of teaching stewardship they are testimony, touch (appropriate touch), trash, tissue, and technology. (Just as a thought, maybe with all of the new folks who have joined us in the past year or two, we might do well to teach on these 8 again. If until then you have any questions about any of them, please ask.) Anyway, as we look at these areas we have the opportunity to return a portion of them to our Father to be used in His work. And as we do we expect incredible things from the hand of God in His Kingdom. Be assured that if God gave you His only Son, He provides for you all things, both physical and spiritual, both now and eternally. Trust Him, and yes, even test Him in this. (Malachi 3:10) By the way, this is the only place in the Bible where our God gives us the opportunity to "test Him."

Bottom line, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of all that you are and have to be used in the work of our Triune God.

In HIS service and yours,


Pastor Heckmann
Hebrews 13:20-21

LYF Sweetheart Banquet

Good Shepherd Roundup

February 15, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Tickets:

\$15 for adults

\$5 for children 4-11

Children 3 and younger eat free

Menu:

Shepherd's Pie, Cornbread, Salad, Cobbler, and Ice Cream

Tickets:

They will go on sale beginning January 26th, and be sold also on February 2nd and 9th.

Bible Study Opportunities

Choose one (or two) for this New Year!

Once again we turn the pages of the Calendar to a new year and once again I ask you to consider adding Bible Study to your already crazy, hectic schedule. I will plead with you again to take a look at these Bible study opportunities we offer you and to choose one or two of which to be a part. When you Called us to serve you here over 20 years ago, one of the main things you were looking for was a Pastor who would "get the congregation into Bible Study". When we arrived, there was very little of that taking place and over the years we have added many opportunities for you to spend time with fellow believers either privately via daily devotions in your email, or corporately as you gather with other believers either in your homes or here at the church to study God's Word. If you take the time to look at the list below, it is a long list, and I do believe, unless I am told differently by any or all of you, that we have accomplished that for which you Called us to serve as your pastor. So, as always, I will encourage you again to make the commitment to spend more time in worship and Bible study. What follows is a thumbnail sketch of the various opportunities we offer right now.

LADIES' EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Evening Bible Study will begin a new study on Wednesday, January 8th entitled **UNSHAKEABLE: Standing on the Rock When Life Quakes Hard**. This Bible study guides us through the lives of eight remarkable men and women whom God shook to the core, then used to point people to the hope of salvation. Each of these men and women thought that they would lead normal, ordinary lives, but God had unique, extraordinary plans for each of them. In each person, we will see how the Lord gave them the faith to survive and thrive. The Lord provides that same strength and grace to 21st century believers, as well. Being shaken is part of a believer's life; but because of Jesus' victory over death and sin, standing on shaky ground is not how our story ends. **HE GAVE US A KINGDOM THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN.**

If you would like to join us, a sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex for you to sign and take a book to do Lesson 1: Joseph: From Favorite Son to Egyptian Slave, which we will begin discussing on January 8th.

This Bible study meets each Wednesday evening during Midweek Religion classes, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please speak to Deb Heckmann, who invites all the ladies of our congregation to join us.

MEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Evening Bible Study will resume meeting on January 8th at 6:30 p.m. They will pick up where they left off in their study of Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism. This time of Bible study takes place in the FAC multipurpose room.

Stan Dake says, "Perhaps it has been a while since you have reflected on the critical truths surrounding your faith and what we teach, preach and confess within The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. If so, then please consider joining us as we return to the truth of Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide and Sola Gratia!" If you have any questions please contact Stan or me.

MIDWEEK RELIGION CLASSES for all members of our congregation and community who are in grades 1 through 8 will start meeting again from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. on January 8th as well. If I may share the Law with you, these classes are mandatory for our 7th and 8th graders, with the rest being highly encouraged to attend. The Good News is that as they attend and as we carve out time for them to be with us, incredible things can happen in our walk with our crucified and risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How valuable and life altering these times are in our formative years. If you want real life examples, just let me know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – 3 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER

This learning opportunity happens in the **nursery** in the **FAC**. If you have any questions, please contact Faye Morrow or Mary Thoe, their very gifted and loving teachers. If you have children in this age group I would strongly encourage you to be here with them to learn even more about Jesus at this tender age. ***Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*** (Matthew 19:14)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sunday School Classes are offered for all ages. There is a group opening in the "Sunday School Opening Room" at 9:00 a.m. and then the students head to their various Sunday School rooms with their peers and teachers.

YOUTH BIBLE CLASS OPPORTUNITY

Each Sunday morning in the Youth Room in the FAC there is a Bible Class offered for everyone of high school age. Mr. James Morrow is the faithful, much loved, and very gifted teacher who continues to guide these young people in the study of God's Word and how it applies to their lives. This class also begins at 9:00 a.m. upstairs in the Youth Room.

PARENTS' SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The parents' Sunday morning Bible Study is studying the book "*Write it on Their Hearts: Practical Help for Disciplining your Kids*" by Chris Swain and watching the podcast "*Raise 'em Up*" as a resource.

Family life is often very busy! There are so many things competing for time and attention. Kids are also influenced by many different things. How can we make sure that we are making the most of our time with our children to lead them spiritually? And what is the best approach?

This practical guide gives parents a systematic approach to discipleship that goes beyond rote memorization. Author Chris Swain applies to the family context the principles of discipleship that Jesus teaches in Scripture to help you make the most of the time you have with your kids, both to lead them to Jesus and to encourage them to be like Jesus.

If you are a parent of school aged children, please plan to join us for this study. The study is led by Jeremy or Rebekah Munz and they meet each Sunday morning in the Multipurpose Room in the Family Activity Center (FAC).

SUNDAY MORNING SANCTUARY BIBLE STUDY

What is repentance? What does it look like? What is it not? Answers to these questions (and others you may have), according to what the Word of God says, will be shared each Sunday morning. We will be using some of the confessional writings of our Lutheran Church, including part of the Smalcald Articles to try to wrap our mind around this teaching so that not only do we understand it, but we are able to share it with those God places in our lives out in the world, as well as in the church. You are all invited to join us for this study each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY MORNING PARISH HALL BIBLE STUDY

This class has begun a new study of the Book of Ephesians. Mr. Stan Dake still leads the class using Bible study sheets that have been prepared with this class in mind. You are invited to join them as they work their way through this very valuable epistle of St. Paul.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

If you would still be interested in joining us for these classes, you are welcome to join us this afternoon, December 22nd 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.

CLASSICS

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. No, you don't have to be a certain age to get in. Right now our age range is from the 20's to 90's. If you fit anywhere in between there, or if you are younger or older, you are invited. As part of this time together we always enjoy the Noon meal.

THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE STUDY GROUP

This group of ladies meets each third Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room to study various Bible studies written by women and for women. The topics vary with each one giving us the opportunity to discuss issues that are affecting us today.

CELL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

These studies meet once a month and are always looking for new students to join in the study. They meet at various times and in various places during the month. The groups continue year round, so any time is a good time to join them. Check your calendar for dates and times when they meet, or ask me. I will direct you to the appropriate place. Here are just a few thoughts about each one.

The *Second Sunday of the Month* group is studying the book of Romans. As you are well aware, the teachings recorded for us in the book of Romans are foundational to our Christian faith, as Paul explains to us step by step why and how God saves us in and through Jesus Christ. Like the rest of the groups, this group also shares a light meal before their time of study. It is a wonderful time of visiting and catching up. They meet at 5:00 p.m. every second Sunday of the month.

The *Third Sunday of the Month* group is studying the book entitled "The Baptismal River: Studying the Sacrament Throughout Scripture" by Richard Davenport. Baptismal theology can be seen throughout Scripture. The Baptismal River explores God's purpose for baptism through events in the Old and New Testaments. This book challenges readers to ask, "Do we really need baptism? What makes it special?" By analyzing the flood, creation, Jesus' baptism, and other events in the Bible, readers will learn what it means to live a baptized life. We will see how God weaves themes of baptism throughout the Old and New Testaments. Discover God's deeper purpose for baptism! This group meets on the third Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the MPR! They too enjoy the evening meal together. This is a younger group, so bring your children along. This is a wonderful time for them to interact with other Christians their age and make these lifelong friendships.

The *Fourth Sunday of the Month* group has begun a study of the book of Matthew that has been written especially with them in mind. They are always looking for more folks to join them. We have only had one session dealing with the book of Matthew, so now would be a wonderful time to join them. This group meets at 5:00 p.m. for a meal and then to study every fourth Sunday of the month.

The *Fourth Tuesday of the Month* small group is studying a book entitled, "Jesus Said What?"

This new book from Christopher M. Kennedy examines the true meaning of the seemingly harsh words of Jesus.

Jesus' quotes in the Bible are frequently taken out of context to use as arguments or reasoning against Christ's love for His people. Believers know that Jesus does not shy away from the truth or difficult lessons. In Pastor Christopher M. Kennedy's new book, readers will learn the real meaning behind Jesus' seemingly difficult teachings through thought-provoking reflection.

"Jesus doesn't always tell us what we want to hear," Kennedy writes. "But He always tells us what we need to hear. Through His words recorded in the Bible, He is speaking to you and me just as much as He was speaking to His original hearers. . . Even the hard words are a gift given to us in love."

Kennedy keeps the foundational biblical rule of Scripture interpreting Scripture in place throughout the entirety of this engaging book. He pushes readers to ask the following questions when reading jarring statements: "What else did Jesus say on this topic?" "What does the Old Testament say on the topic?" As readers continue to read and look at His words in the greater biblical context, they'll be sure to come away with a better understanding of Jesus' true intentions.

This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the home of James and Faye Morrow at 6:00 p.m. If you have questions, ask them or ask me.

Those are some of the opportunities you have to study the Word of God with other members of your church family in the soon to be upon us New Year. I encourage you to make time in your hectic schedule to be a part of one of these studies as we grow together in our Christian faith.

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

A training session for all Altar Guild Members will be held on Saturday, January 11th directly following the annual taking down of the Christmas decorations. It is important that all new and returning Altar Guild Members attend so we can go over the altar guild duties: wearing gloves, filling the candles, washing the white linen and acolyte robes, polishing candle lighters and candle tops, and changing banners. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Brandy Wrisk or Tricia Michalk the 2025 Altar Guild so-chairs

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.



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 Advent and Christmas seasons.

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.

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.

FAMILY GAME NIGHTS AT CHURCH

Starting January 3rd, we will meet for game nights at 6:00 in the MPR. Game nights will be held here on January 3rd, 17th, and 31st. The way it looks now we will also be able to meet at the church on February 21st and 28th. Please join us for fellowship, food, and fun! We usually play 84, 42, and Chickenfoot, but you are welcome to bring another game. The food is a potluck, so bring any dish you would like. We would love to have you! If you have any questions, contact Ryan Sohns or Brianna Boswell at church or by phone at 254-654-9840.





Family Bible Study

January 10th, 6:00-7:30

Multipurpose Room

Please join us for a time of family Bible study along with a potluck dinner. This study is designed for families with children to give them an opportunity to read and study the Bible together. If you are interested in participating, a sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex (back) of the church. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask a Board of Education member or the Sunday School Superintendent. Those ladies who are waiting to answer any questions you may have are:

Faye Morrow (254-718-7260)

Brianna Boswell (254-654-9840)

Candice Bahnsen (254-541-9242)

Kathy Smith (512-773-4037)

Carl Drosche and Lenabell Sohns' Services and Memorials

TREE OF LIFE

Dear Congregation, Pastor, and friends:

The *Drosche* and *Sohns* families **THANK YOU** for the **Memorial and Burial Services**, for hosting the fellowship meals following the funerals and especially for your comforting words and your Christ-love, which was extraordinary at such a time as the death, funerals, and burials of our loved ones, Sonny Drosche and Lenabell Sohns.

Special thanks are due pastor Heckmann! And thanks to the donors for the memorials!

At such a time as this, the *Drosche* and *Sohns* families also wish to **thank St. Paul congregation** for the “perpetual care” and beautification of St. Paul’s cemetery, which reflect St. Paul’s acts of love and devotion, much like those shown at Jesus’ burial. We deeply appreciate that this labor of love is offered solely for the glory of God and proclaiming the hope of eternal life through Christ.

The families also wish to share the **REASON** for the designation of **trees for the memorials**. Since the families have chosen to designate the ***Carl Drosche and Lenabell Sohns memorials*** for **trees** which are lining the road toward the cemetery, it is meant to be a humble act of our trust, love and devotion as well as to **reflect the Biblical *Tree of Life* in St. Paul’s Cemetery, which is like a garden reflecting our delight in the resurrection to life.**

The twelve (12) pecan trees were selected because of the family’s affinity for Pecan trees, which are also the Texas State tree. The memorial designation includes installing water lines to the trees [a water of life] for the ease of care for life.

To us, the cemetery at St. Paul’s is more than a place of rest for those who have died in the Lord. It is a visible reminder of our faith in Christ’s victory over death and our hope in the resurrection. Included in this reminder are the ***trees*** in the cemetery and those lining the road to it. These ***trees*** symbolize the biblical ***Tree of Life***, which appears in both the story of creation (Genesis 2:8-9; cf. 3:8,22,24) and the promise of the new heaven and earth (Revelation 21; Cf. ***Water of Life***, Rev. 21: 6, 22:17). Just as the ***Tree of Life*** represents God’s creation and gift of eternal life, the trees in our cemetery stand as a testimony to His ***life-giving power*** and our trust in His promises.

The ***trees*** also remind us of another tree, ***the tree of the cross*** and Christ’s crucifixion for the sins of the world (Cf. Galatians 3:13).

In Genesis, the **Tree of Life**, which was planted by God in the midst of the garden, is a metaphor for the source of life and immortality, and in Revelation, it reappears as a source of fruit bearing, healing and eternal blessing (Cf. Revelation 22:1-2). These trees also remind us of the wisdom and righteousness that flow from God's grace through faith, as partially described in Proverbs 11:30 (cf. 3:18; 13:12; 0015:4): "**The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.**"

The trees planted in memory of loved ones serve as enduring tributes to God's faithfulness. They remind us of Psalm 1:1-3, which describes the righteous as being like "**trees planted by streams of water [cf. Water of Life] that yield fruit in their season, whose leaves do not wither.**"

In Revelation 22:14, we are reminded, "**Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates**" (cf. "**Tree of Life**" in Revelation 2:7; 22:2,14,19). As we care for this "garden of delight" (*Eden* means delight) with its trees in and at St. Paul's cemetery, we celebrate God's gift of **life** and our future reunion with all saints in His eternal kingdom (Cf. Lamb's **Book of Life** in Rev. 21: 27).

In the designation of the memorials, the families considered that the addition of **trees** to the cemetery is a beautiful way to commemorate the lives of all the fellow faithful departed while glorifying God. Each **tree**, given in memory of a loved one, reflects the hope of the **Tree of Life** and the promise of resurrection. The road lined with these **trees** becomes a path of reflection and hope for those who visit, pointing hearts to the eternal **life** found only in Christ, the **Tree of Life** and the **Water of Life**.

To God alone be the glory! SDG!

Will Sohns

On behalf of the Drosche and Sohns families

Sunday School News

By: Kathy Smith, Sunday School Superintendent

Perfect Attendance for November 2024

Benjamin Burrow	Nathaniel Burrow	Lillian Penny	Titus Boswell	Julia Morrow
Elizabeth Burrow	Evelynn Penny	Rell Turner	Asher Boswell	Lydia Morrow
Tabitha Morrow	Ziyon Turner	Chloe Boswell	Miqah Turner	Ethan Glynn
Jasiah Turner	Ethan Boswell	Jacob Glynn	Shelby Golden	Sydney Golden

January Birthdays

Kohen Castilleja – 1st Analee Meza – 2nd Jarrett Springfield – 9th Miqah Turner – 30th
Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to you!!!

January Baptism Birthdays

Ethan Glynn – 5th Paul Lee Hitt – 7th Elizabeth Burrow – 8th
Nathaniel Burrow – 8th Jarrett Springfield – 9th Andreas Reigle – 13th
Jasiah Turner – 26th Kayden Schenk – 31st Kinsley Schenk – 31st
Happy Baptism Birthday and God's Spiritual Blessings to you!!!

Memory Work for January

January 5: [Jesus said,] “Did you not know that I must be in My Father’s house?” Luke 2:49

January 12: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

January 19: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Colossians 3:16

January 26: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

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 and it would be very nice for you to remember them this Christmas. 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

November: You donated \$386.53 to **Rainbow Room** which provides emergency resources to children connected to Child Protective Services.

December: So far you have donated \$339.50 to **Priceless Beginnings**, a local organization that helps men, women and children out of domestic violence situation.

January: Texas Helping Hands – Hygiene Items. The Helping Hands Action Group assists eligible Texas residents who need a helping hand. They have no affiliation or relationship (financial or otherwise) with any political party, government agency, or any other outside group or persons.

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

Friday, January 10, 6:00-7:30 pm: Family Bible Study led by James Morrow

Friday, February 7, 6:00-7:30 pm: Little Disciples Tuck in Party

Saturday, March 29, 8:30-11:30 am: Circuit-wide Sunday School Teacher Training
(Breakfast served 8:30-9:00)



By: Brianna Boswell

January Bible Study and Social

The next LWML Bible study and social will be January 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the FAC. The Bible study will be “The Third Article – Steadfast in Christ” by Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley in the Winter LWML Quarterly 2024. This study will dive deeper into the third article of the Apostle’s Creed, which expounds on the Holy Spirit and how He works in our lives. Every lady is invited to join us for a Bible study, meal, and fellowship!

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

The Apostles’ Creed, Third Article

January Mission Project

This month’s mission project will be delivering homemade soup, crackers, and dessert to our 80+ year old congregants. We plan to meet January 11th after the church undecorating and Altar Guild meeting (around 10:30 a.m.). Talk to Holly Sohns for more information on this mission project!

January Mission Grant Recipients

Throughout the year members of the LWML (and many others) give mites (gifts) to support the work of the LWML. The LWML then uses these funds to give grants to organizations whose focus is to help our neighbors while sharing God’s Word, ultimately extending God’s kingdom. Here are the two recipients for January:

Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children Lutheran Special Education Ministries, U.S. — \$100,000

One in five children in the United States has a learning need. Each child is unique, they all learn at a different pace, and some require different approaches to learning. Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) serves schools, churches, and families to advance the success of children who have learning needs by providing resources to benefit them in the classroom but also in their church communities. They have served God’s children with special needs for 150 years. This grant will allow LSEM to continue to develop and research tools and techniques so they can provide resources to Lutheran churches to welcome, integrate, and support children with specialized needs and their families in their church bodies.

Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students — Our Place After School Care, Inc., NE \$20,000

Our Place After School Care (Our Place) is a caring Christian community for special needs students between the ages of 13 and 20 years old, who are unable to be safe when home alone and have aged-out of the Hastings area daycare facilities. Our Place benefited from the generosity of Faith Lutheran Church which provided space in its existing facilities for their operations. To expand the outreach and activities of Our Place, the Advisory Board recommended locating a new space to rent. A space has been located which will require little or no modification. This grant will serve as a funding bridge to cover the monthly rent, allow them to purchase software to open a store, and allow for scholarship aid to students.

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 on Thursday, December 19, 2024. Twenty-five met to continue reading the book The Great Sending.

Pastor Heckmann continued leading the group as we delved into the leadership and participant guides so we might further immerse ourselves into the Missio Dei (The Great Sending). Members read and reacted to the discussion questions of three studies: The Sending Christ by Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Who Do People Say Jesus Is? by Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau, and Christ Crucified by Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy.

Following the study, we celebrated the December birthdays of Andrew Peebles and Renee Owen by singing the special Birthday Song. Pastor Heckmann then administered one of his traditional Christmas Trivia Quizzes—"Name that Song." Janell led the group in singing Christmas carols.

Pastor and Deb Heckmann provided the annual Christmas lunch of smoked turkey and dressing. Other attendees provided an abundance of sides and desserts. Thanks to Deb Heckmann for the beautiful Christmas decorations.

Our next study meeting is Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The January noon meal will be a "potluck." Catherine and Barbara will provide desserts.

The beginning of the New Year is an excellent time to start attending The CLASSICS group, and it is a perfect opportunity to spend more time in fellowship with fellow believers. Next month, we will continue reading The Great Sending by Will Sohns.

This group 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.

The Word became flesh



and dwelt among us.

- John 1:14 -

JANUARY 2025

Birthdays

1 Sherry Symm	12 David Clawson
1 Kohen Castilleja	15 Brent Winkler
2 Katy Houchin	16 Brandy Wrisk
3 Kenneth Hardin	18 Owen Diaz
6 Mike Lockhart	19 Dean Cassens
6 McKenzie Winkler Clifton	22 Jamie Clawson
7 Karly Houchin	25 Gina Krause
7 Lance Alsup	26 Jenna Springfield
8 Bob Bangsund	28 Daisy Sohns
9 April Glaser	30 Miqah Turner
9 Melissa Houchin	31 Joyce Lamont
9 Jarrett Springfield	

Anniversaries

3 Chad and Rebecca Burrow
5 John David and Mary Symm
7 Larry and Beverly Luedke
16 Jamie and Kim Clawson
17 Mike and Diana Lockhart
17 Jimmy and Catherine Peebles
18 Rance and Callie Rainer
25 Justin and Jenna Springfield
25 Jerry and Tammy Terrell

(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 JANUARY

FLOWERS FOR MONTH

5. Mike and Diana Lockhart
12.
19. Mike and Diana Lockhart
26.

GREETERS

Bill and Trish Rogge

USHERS

*Andrew Morrow, Sy Hartgrove,
Andrew Peebles, Jimmy Peebles

ORGANIST

Miriam Winkler

MONEY COUNTER & HELPER

Tina Reynolds and Brandy Wrisk

CEMETERY CARETAKERS

The Elmer Boriack Jr. Families

HISTORICAL CEMETERY

The Ray Winkler Family

ALTAR GUILD

Brandy Wrisk and Tricia Michalk

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Sy Hartgrove

ACOLYTES

5. Anna Whisenant
12. Sydney Golden
19. Andreas Reigle
15. Anna Whisenant

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>St. Paul Lutheran Church-MS 220 The Grove Road Gatesville, TX 76528</p> <p>Office Phone: 986-2607 Home Phone: 986-2425 Web address: www.stpaulthegrove.org Email: pastor@stpaulthegrove.org Twitter: @LWMLPrHeckmann</p>						
<p>5 2nd 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 10:15am Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p>	<p>7 Circuit Pastors Conference at Faith, Lampasas 8:30 a.m. Quilting Bee 9:00 a.m. – Noon</p>	<p>8 Midweek Religion Classes 6:30-8:00 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Chapel Service 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>10 Family Bible Study – FAC – 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>11 Church Undecorating Party – All are invited 9:00 a.m. Altar Guild Training 10:00 a.m. Cooking and Caring 10:30 a.m.</p>
<p>12 The Baptism of Our Lord 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. Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm Bill and Trish Rogge Cell Group – MPR – 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Worship Service at The Meadows 10:00 a.m. Worship Service at Hillside Nursing Home 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>15 Midweek Religion Classes 6:30-8:00 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16 CLASSICS 10:00 a.m. Chapel Service 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>17 Game Night at The Family Activity Center 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Communion 10:15am LYF Meeting 11:30 a.m. Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm</p>	<p>20 Inauguration Day</p>	<p>21 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 a.m. Quilting Bee 9:00 a.m. – Noon LWML Bible Study and Social 6:30 p.m</p>	<p>22 Midweek Religion Classes 6:30-8:00 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23 Chapel Service 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>24 LYF Minute to Win In – Favorite Stories of the Old Testament Edition – MPR 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>"The Baptismal River" Small Group Bible Study – MPR – 5:00 p.m.</p>		<p>28 "Jesus Said What?" Small Group Bible Study – James and Faye Morrow's home 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29 Midweek Religion Classes 6:30-8:00 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Chapel Service 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>31 Game Night at The Family Activity Center 6:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15am Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm</p>	<p>27 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>					
<p>Jimmy, Catherine, and Andrew Peebles Cell Group in the MPR 5:00 p.m.</p>						