Welcome! The Lord Comes to Visit Us in Peace. The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the nativity of our Lord. With Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Spirit of God. As the Lord dealt graciously with her and did great things for her (Luke 1:48–49), so also He manifests Himself and His glory to us in mercy and gentleness. He comes to rule His people in peace, to “shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD.” He comes forth not from the great capital city of Rome or Jerusalem, but from lowly little Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, 4). He comes to sacrifice Himself, in fulfillment of His Father’s will, for the salvation and sanctification of His people (Heb. 10:10). He who once visited Elizabeth while hidden in the womb of Mary (Luke 1:39–45) now comes to visit us today, hidden in the lowliness of simple water, bread and wine.

We invite you all to worship with us again.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

In Our Prayers:
Those recovering from surgeries and illness:
Adelia Becker
Cindy Becker-recovering
Pam Becker-hospitalized
Brian Becvar (cousin of Jessica Grutzner)
Pat Hughes-recovering (friend of James and Kathy Kalbas)
Hildegard Krause-recovering
Mary Loewe (mother of Christi Bradford)
Ruth Lorenz
Chris Miertschin
Shannon Miertschin-recovering
Kathy Mumm-recovering
Glenda Paskett-recovering (mother of Lyndy Krause and Melodi Oltmann)
Calvin Robertson
Greg Sorrento-recovering (nephew of Doris Fritsche)
Kynlee Stewart-recovering
Cindy Umphries-recovering (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)
Conway Whited-surgery (nephew of Ashley Schmidt)
Our members in nursing homes and our shut-ins.
Those fighting cancer including:
Annie Beasley (niece of Shorty & Sandra Schimank)
Joyce Bise
Don Claxton-father of Jeff Claxton
Russell Cleghorn (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)
Ginger Clifford (sister of Nancy Kasper)
Mandie Fritsche (granddaughter-in-law of Doris Fritsche)
Franklin Hoffman (father of Maxine Bradshaw)
Ross Hughes-recovering (friend of James and Kathy Kalbas)
Steven Kelly (cousin of Jessica Grutzner, brother-in-law of Christi Bradford)
Rev. Fred Krebs (friend of Shorty & Sandra Schimank)
Bethany Lara (daughter of Kathy Gersch)
Heather Lilly (granddaughter of Irene Noack)
Kathy Lohberg (niece of Adelia Becker)
Louis Muniz, Jr. (brother of Robert Muniz)
Carie Oltmann
Pat Richardson (friend of Darlene Schatte)
Diane Sanders (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)
Karen Schmidt
Jim Sladek (friend of Johnathan Noack)
Barbara Symm
Judy Wesbrook (mother of Heather Krause)
Tiffany Wittman (sister-in-law of Jason & Cindy Heinemann)
Those serving in the Armed Forces including:
Steven Cutlip (brother of Stephanie Symm), Fort Irwin, CA
Kosh Osmun (son of Stephanie Miertschin), Ft. Hood, TX
Coy Hunt (son of Shannon & Christine Hunt) Camp Hovey, South Korea
Those who mourn:
The family of William Johnson (father of Heather Perry)

Prayer Requests are always welcome. To have someone included in our Sunday morning prayers either call the church office through the week or write out the request and give it to pastor on Sunday morning.
**The Order of Service—Worship Folder**

- **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God by Arthur & Laverne Urban on their 55th wedding anniversary.
- **Altar flowers** are needed for Sunday, December 26th. If you would like to place flowers on that Sunday, please contact Dorothy Schautschick at 716-0094.
- **Mission Goal.** In the Voters Meeting held on December 13, 2020, the Voters set our 2021 Mission goal at $37,500.00. To date our Mission contributions are at $37,556.48.
- **Voter’s Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the Voter’s Meeting that was held on Sunday, December 12th are included in the bulletin this morning.
- **Thank You.** Thank you to everyone who came out on Saturday morning to help with and participate in the Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony.
- **January–March Portals of Prayer.** The January-March Portals of Prayer are available in the church office.
- **Christmas Trees.** The Christmas Trees are donated in memory of Hattie Mutschink and Jack Jones by the Jones family.
- **LAF Members.** Thank you for setting up and decorating the Christmas trees.
- **Thank you** to the ladies of the LWML for beautifying the sanctuary with the Poinsettias. If you would like, you may leave your poinsettias in the Church until January 1, 2022, otherwise you may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Day Service on Saturday and check your name off the list.
- **Christmas Eve Service.** Friday evening, December 24th at 6:00 p.m. we will have our Children’s Christmas Eve Service. The children have been working hard on learning their parts and rehearsing their songs and are ready to share with us the story of the Savior’s birth.
- **Christmas Day Service.** Christmas Day Service will be held on Saturday, December 25th beginning at 9:00 a.m. and will be broadcast on KBUK Radio (104.9 FM) from LaGrange. Our thanks to Paige Tractors for sponsoring this broadcast.
- **2022 Offering Envelopes.** The 2022 adult offering envelopes are available to be picked up in the church office. Please continue to use the 2021 envelopes until the end of the year and then discard, since offering envelope numbers often change from year to year. If you wish to give an offering to the 2021 church year, please give this before the New Year’s Day service. If you failed to receive your 2022 envelopes or have any questions, please contact the church office. The children’s envelopes were sent home, with the children, on Friday.
- **Annual Report.** Reports from various committees and organizations for our congregation’s annual report are asked to be completed and turned in to the church office by January 24th.

**THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK**

**Today**
- **Song Service w/Communion** – 8:30 a.m.
  - Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
  - LYF Meeting & Social – 2:00 p.m.

**Mon. – Fri.**
- **No School – Christmas Vacation**

**Thursday**
- Board of Elder’s Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- **ECC Pajama/Movie Day**

**Friday**
- **Christmas Eve Worship Service** – 6:00 p.m.
  - Acolytes: Rylee Smolik and Kamrie Stewart
  - **ECC Closed**

**Saturday**
- **Christmas Day Worship Service** – 9:00 a.m.
  - Acolytes: Ayla Droegemueller and Jay Woelfel
  - **ECC Closed**

**Next Sunday**
- **English Worship Service** – 8:30 a.m.
  - Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
  - Acolytes: Lydia Schautschick and Maison Schautschick

**Birthdays:** 21st – Lavonne Berdoll, Michelle Birnbaum, Herman Gersch; 22nd – Gladys Dillman, Scott Jones, John Weiser; 23rd – Jill Jackson, Daniel Schulze; 24th – Krista Jatzlau; 25th – Michelle Gonzales, Ruby Schulze. God’s Blessings to you.
ST. PAUL NOTES: (12-5-2021)

Offering Last Week: $42,324.56

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>$23,237.00 Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ECC Operating</td>
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<td>Tuition</td>
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<td><strong>Received 12/5/2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40,710.56</strong> Total</td>
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Est. needed per week $22,500.00

Received MTD $40,710.56

Est. needed per month $97,500.00


ST. PAUL NOTES: (12/12/2021)
Attendance Last Week: Midweek Advent (12/8/2021)- 119, Morning Worship- 206, Bible Class- 21; Sunday School- 27, Banner Classes: Nursery I, Grade 4, Offering- $21.75.

Offering Last Week: $30,035.44

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch Room</td>
<td>$1,657.75 Savings/Other</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$2,333.00 Building Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$5,974.94 Bus Replacement Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Received 12/12/2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,126.44</strong> Savings/Other Total</td>
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</table>

Est. needed per week $22,500.00

Received MTD $29,126.44

Est. needed per month $97,500.00


Serving today:

- Elders– Mark Jones and Steven Schautschick
- Organist- Daniel Krause
- Acolytes- Benjamin Schonhoeft and Emma Short
- Head Ushers- Donald Becker
- Captain- Troy Menzel    Assistant- Mark Jones
- Counting and Posting offering this week:
- Chairman- Glen Albrecht

Ty Kasper and Carson Becker

************
LUTHERAN HOUR: Next Sunday, December 26th, “Rite of Passage”. Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Life proceeds in stages marked by rites of passage. Dr. Zeigler talks about the changes we go through, and the Savior Who goes with us. (Luke 2:21-40). Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live.

Life Through the Church Year:
December 19 – Advent IV
The Scriptures clearly declare the liveliness our Lord brings even when unborn (Luke 1:41). Not only does He bestow this love explicitly upon every embryo, but He makes it a reason for rejoicing (Luke 1:44). Let the whole world think us fools (Psalm 80:6) – only let us still leap, delight, and speak loudly in celebration of the sanctity of life!

2021 Advent/Christmas Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Offering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Dec. 24</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>½ Lutheran Braille Workers &amp; ½ Bus Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Dec. 25</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>English/ German</td>
<td>½ LSS &amp; ½ LBT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Communion</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
St. Paul Lutheran School
1578 CR 211  Giddings, TX 78942
Office Phone 979-366-2218

for the week of December 19-25, 2021

2021-22 School Year Theme – “Follow Me” – John 12:26

From the Principal’s Desk...

Here’s wishing everyone in our St. Paul school family a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

- the School Office will be closed Dec. 18th thru Jan. 3rd
- See you Christmas Eve for the Children’s Service @ 6:00 PM!
- Classes resume on Tuesday, Jan. 4th @ 8:15 AM.

Have a Merry and Christ-filled Christmas and very Happy New Year!
~ Jim House, Principal

NEWS, NOTES, and HAPPENINGS

CHRISTMAS VACATION. . . St. Paul Lutheran School will be closed Dec. 18th thru Jan. 3rd for Christmas Vacation. The school office will also be closed for business during Christmas vacation. In an emergency, you can contact Mr. House at 972-948-3980. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 4th at 8:15 AM. We hope everyone enjoys your yuletide break!

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE . . . Plan to attend the 2021 St. Paul Children’s Christmas Eve Service next Friday, Dec. 24th at 6:00 PM in the church with overflow seating in the gym. Our Grade K-8 students will lead the evening worship service entitled, “Symbols of Salvation” with our focus on the message of the Christmas Gospel as told through song and verse. We look forward to having our extended St. Paul family join us for Christmas Eve worship and share the joy of the Newborn King Jesus’ birth on Dec. 24th!

3rd SIX-WEEKS ENDS . . . Today marks the end of the 3rd Six-Week grading period. Please make sure all assignments are turned in and financial commitments are met before leaving for Christmas Vacation. The 3rd Six-Week report cards will be prepared for distribution following Christmas Vacation on Thursday, Jan. 6th.
CHAPEL OFFERING PROJECT: Our January weekly chapel offerings will continue support of Lutheran Heritage Foundation and their "Juan 3:16" project. "Juan 3:16" sends Bible story books to children and families in Peru, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. What an incredible opportunity we have to share God's Word about our Savior Jesus with people! To date, we've collected $363.81 for the project. Please remember your chapel offerings every Wednesday in support of "Juan 3:16 Project" and the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

BASKETBALL NEWS: Following some early-season success, our Voyager teams take a break from games during Christmas Vacation; the January schedule of games looks like this:
- 1/5 – Girls vs. Coupland – 4:30 PM (H)
  - Var. Boys vs. Coupland – 5:30 PM (H)
- 1/8 – Flatonia Varsity Invitational Tournament
- 1/10 – Girls @ Thorndale – 4:30 PM (A)
  - Var. Boys @ Thorndale – 5:30 PM (A)
- 1/13 – JV Boys @ Imm.-Giddings – 3:00 PM (A)
  - Girls @ Imm.-Giddings – 4:00 PM (A)
  - Var. Boys @ Imm.-Giddings – 5:00 PM (A)
- 1/15 – Thorndale Varsity Tournament
- 1/18 – Girls vs. St. Paul-Brenham – 4:00 PM (H)
  - JV Boys vs. St. Paul-Brenham – 5:00 PM (H)
  (both teams leaving by bus at 2:45 PM)
- 1/24 – Girls @ Coupland – 5:15 PM (A)
  - Var. Boys @ Coupland – 6:15 PM (A)
- 1/25 – Girls vs. 1st Baptist-Brenham – 4:00 PM (H)
  - JV Boys vs. 1st Baptist-Brenham – 5:00 PM (H)
- 1/27 – Girls vs. 1st Baptist-Caldwell – 4:00 PM (H)
  - Boys vs. 1st Baptist-Caldwell – 5:00 PM (H)
Plan to come cheer for our teams in January. Go Voyagers!

HOLIDAY PRACTICES: To keep our hoops skills sharp during Christmas Vacation, our teams will hold practices during the holidays:
- Girls – Monday, Jan. 3rd – 10:00-11:30 AM
- Var. Boys – Thursday, Dec. 30th – 6:00-7:30 PM
  - Sunday, Jan. 2nd – 6:00-7:30 PM
Attendance at this open gym is optional but highly encouraged. Hopefully, all players can attend; please let your coaches know if you are unable to attend!
Keep practicing at home, too, over Christmas Vacation in preparation for the 2nd half of our 2021-22 season in January!

PTLS NEWS: Mark your calendars and plan to attend the next regular meeting of the St. Paul PTLS on Sunday, Jan. 23rd at 10:15 AM in the gym. Watch the News Blast newsletter in January for an agenda of items to be discussed and decided. We’ll be finalizing plans for the Chili Supper & Auction on March 6th!

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS VACATION!: Here's wishing every member of our St. Paul-Serbin school family a wonderful and blessed Christmas holiday and safe & healthy start to the New Year 2022. As some are prone to only look back at the problems and disappointments of 2021, I would encourage all of you to focus on the TRUE REASON FOR THE SEASON, namely the celebration of Jesus’ birth, and let that joy shine through as we begin 2022 with the hope and blessings of a New Year!

Your partner in Christ,
James L. House, Principal

The Faculty and Staff of St. Paul Lutheran -Serbin wishes each St. Paul student and family a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Christ-filled New Year.