

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

Serbin, Texas



John Schmidt, Pastor  
James L. House, Principal

Church 366-9650 Fax 366-2200  
School 366-2218 ECC 366-2870  
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Church Address: 1572 CR 211 Giddings, TX 78942

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## The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8 October 2023

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### Welcome! *The True Vine Redeems the Vineyard of the LORD of Hosts.*

“The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel” (Is. 5:7), which He planted “on a very fertile hill” (Is. 5:1). He did everything for His vineyard, not only clearing it of stones and planting it with “choice vines,” but also building the “watchtower” of His prophets and hewing out the “wine vat” of His priesthood in its midst (Is. 5:2). But when “he looked for it to yield grapes,” there were only “wild grapes” of bloodshed and unrighteousness (Is. 5:2, 7). The Lord Jesus likewise described the unfaithfulness of those who were called to care for His vineyard (Matt. 21:33–35). But in this He also describes His cross and Passion (Matt. 21:38–39), by which He has redeemed the vineyard for Himself. He is the true Vine, planted by death into the ground, and in His resurrection, He brings forth “the fruits in their seasons” (Matt. 21:41). Among those good grapes of the true Vine is the Apostle Paul. Once a zealous persecutor of the Church, he “suffered the loss of all things” in order to “gain Christ and be found in him,” to “know him and the power of his resurrection” (Phil. 3:8–10). We invite you all to worship with us again.

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### In Our Prayers:

Those recovering from surgeries and illness:

*Royce Albrecht-recovering*  
*Marvin Bamsch-rehab center (brother of Charlyn Matthijetz)*  
*Janice Becker-recovering*  
*Wayne Becker-recovering*  
*Chris Birnbaum*  
*Louis Doebbler-hospitalized*  
*Robert House-healing from a fall (father of Jim House)*  
*Roselie Johnson-recovering (mother of Carie Oltmann)*  
*Judy Kalbas-recovering*  
*Nancy Kasper-hospitalized*  
*Dennis Kurio-recovering (brother of Kathleen Bigon and uncle of Kyle Jenke)*  
*Naomi McDonald (daughter of Rev. David & Kathy Mumm)*  
*Elaine Mersiovsky-recovering*  
*Shannon Miertschin*  
*Ethan Ray-recovering*  
*Joann Sell-hospitalized (grandmother of Sydney Shaver)*  
*Greg Sorrento-recovering (nephew of Doris Fritsche)*  
*Cindy Umphries-recovering (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)*  
*Jeannie Werchan-recovering*

### Our members in nursing homes and our shut-ins.

#### Those fighting cancer including:

*Lillian Bamsch (sister-in-law of Charlyn & Marvin Matthijetz)*  
*Randy Belz (uncle of Amanda Carter)*  
*Teresita Brodrick (aunt of David Wittman)*  
*Vernon Bryant (friend of Arthur & Dianna Noack)*  
*Russell Cleghorn (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)*  
*Ginger Clifford (sister of Nancy Kasper)*  
*Franklin Hoffman (father of Maxine Bradshaw)*  
*Brenda Karisch (friend of Bonnie Wenke family)*

*Matt Kelley (Hinze family member)*  
*Steven Kelly (cousin of Jessica Gruetzner, brother-in-law of Christi Bradford)*  
*Theresa Krause*  
*Bethany Lara (daughter of Kathy Gersch)*  
*Heather Lilly (granddaughter of Irene Noack)*  
*Ruby Maass (mother of Linda Schonhoeft)*  
*Cannon Martin (nephew of Christopher Taylor)*  
*Gladys Mathena (sister of Frances Miertschin and Marilyn Miertschin)*  
*Rhonda Mitschke (friend of Christi Fritsche)*  
*Deborah Richards (sister-in-law of Zelda Richards)*  
*Carol Sander*  
*Diane Sanders (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)*  
*Cherie Todee-sister of Carrie Oltmann*  
*Judy Westbrook (mother of Heather Krause)*  
*Tiffany Wittman (sister-in-law of Jason & Cindy Heuermann)*

#### Those serving in the Armed Forces including:

*Steven Cutlip (brother of Stephanie Symm), Fort Bliss, El Paso*  
*Kosh Ozmun (son of Stephanie Miertschin), Ft. Cavazos, TX*  
*Coy Hunt (son of Shannon & Christine Hunt) Ft. Drum, New York*  
*Jacob Knapp (cousin of Mark Gruetzner, son of Nathan & Heather Wenke) Ft. Stewart, Georgia*  
*Dylan Robbins (cousin of Michelle Birnbaum) Jacksonville, NC*  
*Randall Weise (grandson of Bernice Doebbler) Ft. Huachuca, Arizona*  
*Peyton Walker (son of Heather Mersiovsky) Ft. Benning, Georgia*

#### Those who mourn:

*The family of Melba Groeschel (aunt of Chris Birnbaum)*  
**Rain**

**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**— 184 of the hymnal

The Hymns: 590, 702, 781 v. 1&2, 505, 737

The Sermon: **“Thy Will Be Done”**

Adult Choir Anthem: *“O Christ, Our True and Only Light”*

✠ *We begin today with the order of Baptism on page 268 of the hymnal*

We welcome to God’s people through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

**Emmalynn Blair Knott**

and her father

**Daylon L. Knott**

Emmalynn is the daughter of Daylon and Alexandra Knott. Her baptismal witnesses are Claudia Durrenberger, Katie Parker, Kenneth Parker, Gayle Plackermier, Marty Schueler, Isac Bilano and Catherine Bilano

- ✠ **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God in memory of Verna Mae Becker’s birthday by Monroe Becker and children.
- ✠ **Thank You** to Reverend J. Brown, Legacy Giving Ambassador, Legacy Deo for delivering the message and conducting Bible Class this morning.
- ✠ **Thank You.** The Texas Wendish Heritage Society offers its sincere thanks to the many volunteers that came together to make the 35th Annual Wendish Fest a success. Without this amazing community, our beloved festival would not be possible. The TWHS greatly appreciates everyone who supported the event, volunteered, brought their family and friends, or participated in this big day in any capacity. We look forward to seeing you all again next year on September 29th.
- ✠ **August Financial Statements** are available from the ushers this morning,
- ✠ **Voters Meeting.** The October Voters Meeting will be held this evening at 7:00 p.m. The agenda is included in the bulletin this morning. All voting members are encouraged to attend
- ✠ **South Lee County Volunteer Fire Department** is preparing Barbecue Chicken on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Serbin picnic grounds from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon. The barbecue is to go only. Order forms are included in the bulletin this morning. If you wish to order please fill out this form and return it to the ushers, the church office or contact Paul Somerfield at 713-922-7501 or St. Paul Lutheran church office at 979-366-9650 by Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- ✠ **Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, La Grange,** will hold their annual Turkey & Dressing dinner on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM. Plates will be available by DRIVE THRU ONLY at the church parking lot located at 800 N. Franklin. Tickets are \$15 per plate. The meal includes turkey, dressing, homemade noodles, green beans, and cranberry sauce. Tickets are available at the church office, church Preschool, Lukas Bakery, LG Chevron, Men’s Club members, or LYF members. This popular meal always sells out, so please purchase your tickets in advance!
- ✠ **Trunk or Treat – Tuesday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Halloween finds children of all ages dressing up and sharing treats with one another. We would again like to invite families to the church picnic grounds to decorate your “area”, share your treats and fellowship together. The children will then be able to walk from area to area or vehicle to vehicle to receive the treats. The St. Paul cheerleaders will be selling Hot Dogs, Chips & Drink from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ✠ **Countdown to National Wreaths across America Day** on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We have identified **98** veteran’s graves on our cemetery. Cost of a wreath is \$17.00. As of today, we have sponsored wreaths for **48** veteran’s graves. Won’t you please consider purchasing a wreath(s) so we can honor all of our veteran’s. Please contact the church office if you have questions or need help in navigating the website.
- ✠ **The Game Day at Holy Cross Lutheran Church is returning!** The first Game Day will be held Thursday October 19 from 2-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a fun afternoon of games (cards, board games, dominoes, puzzles, etc.), it is a great opportunity to get out and get to know people. There will be refreshments served. Plans are to host this fun day once a month. If you have a favorite game, you are encouraged to bring it. Help spread the word; everyone is invited. For questions contact Lisa at 979-218-6000.

- † **If you like to do jigsaw puzzles**, you may want to attend the new Trunk Puzzle Swap that will be held on Sunday afternoon October 8 at 4 p.m. in the church parking lot at Holy Cross 600 FM 1482 Warda. This event is organized under the Free Jigsaw Puzzle Swap Central Texas Group and hosted by the Outreach Group of Holy Cross. If you have never been to a puzzle swap, it's very simple. Bring your puzzles with boxes taped shut or pieces sealed in zip lock bags, complete puzzles are preferred, if any pieces are missing, please clearly note this on the front of the box. Arrive approx. 15 minutes early, lay your puzzles out in your trunk, on the ground or in the back of your hatchback. You can walk around and look at other puzzles but no swapping till the start time. At 4 p.m. the host will announce the start and you simply walk around and take puzzles that you like. It is a great way to share puzzles with other puzzlers!
- † **Second Chance.** Have you ever considered volunteering at Second Chance in LaGrange? There is an opportunity to work together with the Mt Calvary group on a 6 week rotation. You can come one or more days during the groups rotation. If you're interested in learning more you are invited to come Thursday October 26 at 6 pm to Holy Cross Fellowship Hall in Warda for a brief presentation on how you can be a part of this group.

**LUTHERAN HOUR:** Next Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, **“Help the World Rejoice”**. Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A musical about a choir of nuns led by a lounge singer provides the setting for Dr. Michael Zeigler's message, based on Psalm 80. 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](http://lhm.org) for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live.

**Serving today:** **Elders**– Mark Jones and Steven Schautschick  
**Organist**- Susan Michael  
**Acolytes**- Kalisa Oltmann and Nathan Schautschick  
**Head Ushers**- Donald Becker  
**Captain**- Troy Menzel **Assistant**- Mark Jones  
**Ushers**- Joahua Adair, John Hinze, Scott Jones,  
 Russell Kappler, Brooks Kasper, Kyle Kasper,  
 Ty Kasper, Caleb Oltmann, Curtis Oltmann,  
 Clyde Schimank, Troy Wiederhold  
**Counting and Posting offering this week:**  
**Chairman**- Glen Albrecht  
 Pablo Rodriguez, Tommy Miertschin, Brooks Kasper  
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**THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK**

Today	<b>Worship Service – 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Mission Festival</b> Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Voter's Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Sun. – Mon.	TX Dist. Lutheran Educators Conference
Monday	<b>No School</b>
Tuesday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m. Circuit Meeting @ Zion, Schulenberg – 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday	Staff Bible Study – 7:30 a.m. School Chapel – 8:30 a.m. Youth Confirmation – 6:00 p.m. 4-H Meeting – 6:30 p.m. LWML Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.
Friday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.
Next Sunday	<b>Worship Service w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.</b> Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Acolytes: Elizabeth Richardson and Jozlyn Perry Greeter: Pam Krause

**Birthdays: Today** – Tammy Hartfield; 10<sup>th</sup> – Jaimie Jordan; 11<sup>th</sup> – Sheilla Barnett; 12<sup>th</sup> – Cydell Hartfield, Carolyn Oltmann; 14<sup>th</sup> – John Kalbas. God's Blessings to you.

**Life Through the Church Year:**

**October 8 – Pentecost XIX**

The psalmist openly rejoices that Almighty God cherishes every human life He creates. “Let your hand be on...the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself (Psalm 80:17). The same Lord invites us to delight in receiving one another as gifts and privileges---no matter what size, skills, or circumstances. Why settle for bloodshed when we can have justice (Isaiah 5:7)?

**ST. PAUL NOTES:**

**Attendance Last Week:** Morning Worship- 259, Communion- 127, Bible Class- 20;  
Sunday School- 38, Visitors- 1, Offering- \$30.00.

**Offering Last Week:** \$16,933.75

<b>Home:</b>		<b>Mission:</b>	
General	\$12,669.00	Mission	\$1,260.00
Sunday School	\$30.00	<b>Mission Total</b>	<b>\$1,260.00</b>
Lunch Room	\$858.50	<b>Savings/Other:</b>	
ECC Operating	\$693.75	Building Fund	\$50.00
Lutheran Witness	\$22.50	<b>Savings/Other Total</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
School Registration	\$325.00		
Tuition	\$1,025.00	Total	\$16,933.75
<b>Received 10/01/2023</b>	<b>\$15,623.75</b>		

**Est. needed per week** \$27,230.00

**Received MTD** \$15,623.75

**Est. needed per month** \$118,000.00

**MEMORIALS: General:** In memory of Michael Fritsche by Rodney Fritsche - \$400.00

# The Voyager Voice

St. Paul Lutheran School

1578 CR 211 Giddings, TX 78942

Office Phone 979-366-2218

✝ Check us out on the Internet at [www.stpaulserbinschool.org](http://www.stpaulserbinschool.org) ✝

for the week of October 8-14, 2023

2023-24 School Year Theme – “Connected” – Romans 15:5

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 8-14...National Fire Prevention Week
- Oct. 8-9...TX Dist. Educ. Conference  
@ New Braunfels
- Oct. 9...Columbus Day – **NO SCHOOL**
- Oct. 10...VVB vs. Caldwell – 5:00 PM
- Oct. 11...School Chapel Service  
– 8:30 AM  
Fire Prevention Week  
Assembly – 9:00 AM
- Oct. 12...VB & FB games (home)  
vs. Thorndale – 4 & 5 PM
- Oct. 13...Midterm 2<sup>nd</sup> Six-Weeks
- Oct. 14...Solar Eclipse Viewing  
– 11 AM-12 noon
- Oct. 15...PTLS Meeting – 10:15 AM
- Oct. 16...VB & FB games (home)  
vs. Giddings – 4 & 5 PM
- Oct. 19...Parent-Student Lunch  
JVVB & JVFB games (home)  
vs. Brenham – 4 & 5:00 PM
- Oct. 20...Fall Sports Pop Rally  
– 8:30 AM  
LVCT State Volleyball  
Tourney @ Salem-Tomball

## The Voyager Voice

A weekly publication of  
St. Paul Lutheran School – Serbin  
Jim House, Principal  
Home Phone 972-948-3980

### Our Mission

“To Educate Children for Life to  
Witness the Word to the World.”

## From the Principal's Desk . . .

**NO SCHOOL** on Monday as we observe **Columbus Day**. Enjoy your early fall vacation day!

Next week is **National Fire Prevention Week**. Firefighters from the South Lee Co. Fire Dept. will visit SPS on Friday, at 9:30 AM.

Join us next Saturday (10/14) at school as we view the anticipated **Annular Solar Eclipse** – 11:00 AM-12 noon.

And mark your calendars and plan to attend the October **PTLS Meeting** on Sunday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 AM.

Check out the calendar for upcoming athletic events and special activities. Have a blessed week in the Lord! – Jim House, Principal

## NEWS, NOTES, and HAPPENINGS

**COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY**. . . Mark your Calendars – **next Monday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>** is our Columbus Day holiday. There will be **NO SCHOOL** at St. Paul Lutheran that day. Make your child care plans accordingly for this early fall vacation!



**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**. . . The week of Oct. 8-14 is National Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is “**Cooking Safety Starts With YOU!**—Pay Attention to Fire Prevention.” We have two special activities planned for the students:

- On **Wednesday morning, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>**, Firefighter Steven Noack will join us in assembly @ 9 AM to share his experiences and demonstrate his personal equipment with our students.
- On **Friday morning, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>**, firefighters from the South Lee Co. Fire Dept. will visit SPS to share inform and educate our students about family fire safety and the importance of planning your family escape route. Students will experience various pieces of firefighting equipment and see the fire truck! We thank Steven and the South Lee Co. Fire Dept. for visiting our school and providing our students and families with this important information. Fire safety is everyone's business!



**ECLIPSE VIEWING.** . . We have a unique opportunity to view the 2023 Annular Solar Eclipse *next Saturday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> between 11 AM and 12 noon.* We'd like to include all the students in this educational experience using special safe-viewing glasses purchased for each student—but we request your permission to do so! An *Eclipse Viewing Permission Slip* is coming home today, and must be signed and returned by Friday morning, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in front of school on Saturday at 11:00 AM for final viewing instructions and then view the eclipse together. Thanks for your cooperation in returning your slips—and happy viewing!



**PTLS NEWS.** . . Plan to attend the next PTLS Meeting *next Sunday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 PM* in the church. The main business for this important meeting is discussion & vote on the amendments to the PTLS Constitution & Bylaws. Other various items of business will be shared with the group that morning, too. Watch for an agenda via email next week and plan now to attend!

**PARENT-STUDENT LUNCH.** . . The next Parent-Student Lunch will be held on *Thursday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:20 AM.* Parents, you are invited to come "lunch" with your child that day during their class's regular lunch time (and enjoy fellowship with each other, too!). Watch for the flyer coming home next week. If you plan to eat a St. Paul hot lunch, we ask that you return the Friday Lunch Reservation Form with method of payment by Monday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you at the October Parent Lunch!



**OFFERING PROJECT.** . . Chapel offerings in October go to support the Samaritan Pulse "Operation Christmas Child" project. We've already collected nearly \$500.00 for the project which provides a shoebox gift and the Gospel of Jesus to children around the world at Christmas. Remember your chapel offerings during October and contribute generously in support of this worthy project. We're also *collecting various school supplies* for our OCC Shoebox project and still need the following numbers of supplies to fill the boxes:



- 50 ink pens (blue or black)
- 110 glue sticks
- 86 rolls of scotch tape
- 76 index cards (100 ct)
- 36 colored markers (set of 10)
- 74 pink eraser

We encourage you to bring donations to the school office. Help reach our 100 shoebox goals and make our OCC Shoebox project a success this year!

**VOYAGER ATHLETICS.** . . Our Voyager teams are well into the second half of the 2023 fall sports season; here's the schedule of games for next week:

- *This Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>,* the Vars. VB team travels to Immanuel-Giddings to play in the *Imm-Giddings Varsity Tournament* (game times TBA). We wish the girls good luck!
- *On Tuesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>,* the Vars. VB team return home to play Caldwell @ 5:00 PM.
- *Thurs. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>* – all four teams see action at home vs. *Thorndale – JV VB & JVFB @ 4:00 PM; Vars. VB & Vars. FB @ 5:00 PM.*



Check the website for remaining games in October, and plan to come cheer our teams' efforts this season.

**FALL PEP RALLY.** . . We will hold our Fall Sports Pep Rally *on Friday morning, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 AM* in the gym. Parents, you are invited to join the students as we recognize and show our appreciation to all the volleyball and football players, enjoy our cheerleaders routines, and send our Varsity Volleyball team off to the LVCT State Tournament pumped up for victory! We encourage you to wear your Voyager "Spirit" or theme t-shirts to school and join in the fun!



**CROSS COUNTRY NEWS.** . . The Voyager kids have been invited to participate in two cross country meets: the *Lutheran State Meet on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior-Houston* and the *5<sup>th</sup> annual Private Schools of Central Texas Cross Country Invitational* hosted by Faith LHS on *Friday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>* beginning at 1:30 PM. An information letter and permission form for the PSCT Meet was sent home earlier this week with each student. If you'd like to participate, return the permission form to Mrs. Gurka no later than next Wed., Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.



**HAVE A GREAT WEEK!** . . The teachers and I are attending the IX District Lutheran Educators Conference this weekend in New Braunfels, while you're enjoying your Columbus Day holiday. Next week we have several fun activities and sports events scheduled—hope to see you all there! If I can be of any service to you throughout the week, feel free to stop by my office or call for an appointment.



Your partner in Christ,  
James L. House, Principal





### **Oktoberfest Meal Tickets**

Tickets for our annual Oktoberfest celebration are now available! Meal includes brats, noodles, green beans, potato salad, kraut, bread and coffee cake. Meals will be available on Saturday, October 28 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Holy Cross Picnic Grounds. Tickets are \$15 each and available for pre-sale only! (Deadline is Thursday, October 19th.) Talk to a FLHS student, staff, board, or delegate today!!

### **Oktoberfest**

FLHS will be hosting a family friendly event on Saturday, October 28th at the Holy Cross Picnic grounds.

Events for the day include:

- German meal of brats, kraut, green beans, noodles, bread and coffee cake for dessert will be served from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm by pre-sale tickets only. \$15/plate \*Tickets are available NOW!
- Concession stand will also be available for purchase all day with items like hot dogs, warm pretzels, cheese and nuts.
- The NEW **Battle of the Brew and Battle of the Vine Contest** submissions need to be made by 10:00 am. See our Facebook page for more information regarding this contest.
- Silent Auction items will be available for bidding until 1:15 pm.
- Live Auction of items will take place at between 12:15 pm and 1:00 pm.
- Children's games and activities will begin at 12:00 pm and include activities such as a bounce house, temporary tattoos, photo backdrop, pumpkin painting, hayride, and more!
- 42 Domino and Cornhole tournaments will begin at 1:30 pm.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! ([www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org))

### **Share the Gift of Love**

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Nikki Kueck to learn more.

### **Follow Us On Facebook!**

With a new school year underway, you may want to see the exciting things happening inside here on a daily basis! By "liking" our Facebook page and "sharing" our posts, you will be in the loop on all the great things happening and you can share them with your friends!