

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Serbin, Texas



John Schmidt, Pastor
James L. House, Principal

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The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

12 November 2023

Welcome! *The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming.* The Day of the Lord is "darkness, and not light" (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their "burnt offerings and grain offerings," nor will He look upon their "peace offerings" (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets "justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the "lamps" of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the "oil" of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1-4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us "to the dealers" (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we "encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes "with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God," and "we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

We invite you all to worship with us again.

In Our Prayers:

Those recovering from surgeries and illness:

- Royce Albrecht-recovering
- Janice Becker-recovering
- Wayne Becker-recovering
- Chris Birnbaum
- Irene Buscha
- Jerry Fischer-recovering
- Robert House-healing from a fall (father of Jim House)
- Stella Jackson
- Roselie Johnson-recovering (mother of Carie Oltmann)
- Judy Kalbas-recovering
- Dennis Kurio-recovering (brother of Kathleen Bigon and uncle of Kyle Jenke)
- Linda Meyer-recovering (mother of Rose Thorp)
- Shannon Miertschin
- Ethan Ray-recovering
- Greg Sorrento-recovering (nephew of Doris Fritsche)
- Cindy Umphries-recovering (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)
- Robert (Turtle)Warren-recovering (father of Jason Heuermann)
- Kenneth Weiser-recovering
- 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)
- Bernice Zoch-recovering

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
- Randall Weise (grandson of Bernice Doebbler) Ft. Huachuca, Arizona
- Dylan Robbins (cousin of Michelle Birnbaum) Jacksonville, NC
- Aron Marak (nephew of Mike and Susie Maass) Fr. Bragg, North Carolina

Those who mourn:

- The family of Ethel Throckmorton (aunt of Tammy Hartfield)
- The family of Larry Lehmann (uncle of Delvin Borack)

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: 398, 516, 781 v. 1&2, 515, 785

Sermon Text: Matthew 25:1-13

The Sermon: **“The Lord is Coming”**

Adult Choir Anthem: ♪“O Bless the Lord My Soul”

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

Ashley Nicole Kasper

Ashley is the wife of Ty Kasper.

- † **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God in honor of Courtney Koehne’s adult confirmation by the Chris Becker family.
- † **The Altar Stand flowers** are placed to the glory of God in honor of our 46th wedding anniversary by Delvin and Judy Boriack.
- † **Side Stand flowers** are placed to the glory of God in honor of Ashley Frerich Kasper for her baptism and adult confirmation by her husband Ty Kasper and her family.
- † **Welcome:** Joining our congregation this morning through Adult Confirmation are, Jennifer Desiree Dittmar, Ashley Nicole Kasper, Courthey Lynn Koehne, Johanna Lyn Osborne, Makayla Paige Schautschick and Sonya Anne Schautschick. We welcome them as a part of our congregation and pray God will richly bless their affiliation with our congregation.
- † **The Nominating Committee** will meet Tuesday, November 14th, at 7:00 p.m.
- † **School Chapel.** This week, School Chapel will be held on Tuesday, November 14th instead of Wednesday.
- † **Mission Goal.** In the Voters Meeting held on October 9, 2022 the Voters set our 2023 Mission goal at \$37,500.00. To date our Mission contributions are at \$35,816.00. We are **\$1,684.00** away from meeting our 2023 goal.
- † **Advent Devotional Books** are available from the ushers this morning and in the church office.
- † **Scrip Program.** Getting ready to do your holiday shopping, or giving gift cards as gifts? You can do it all with a Scrip Card. Order them through the Church’s Scrip Program. Orders can be placed through the Church Office or you can go online and order your cards.

LUTHERAN HOUR: Next Sunday, November 19th, **“Until that Day”**. Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook. No one knows when Christ will return. Until that day, we live in certain uncertainty. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11). 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 Thoughts in the Church Year:

November 12 – Pentecost XXIV

Like the parable’s bridegroom, Jesus often meets us in unexpected moments (Matthew 25:10). He even sometimes hides in surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses in order to rescue and bless. So, we dare not ignore the poor and needy neighbors who cry out for deliverance (Psalm 70:1,5) from abortion and assisted suicide. If we do indeed love the Lord’s salvation, then let us say so (Psalm 70:4)!

- Serving today:** **Elders**— Monroe Schatte, Jr. and Dwayne Schulze
Organist- Jack Wiederhold
Acolytes- Everett Corn and Addyson Early
Head Ushers- Donald Becker
Captain- Michael Becker **Assistant**- Shelby Becker
Ushers- Glen Albrecht, Wyatt Arldt, Virgil Becker,
Jace Heuermann, Clay Mertink, Cody Mertink,
Cole Mertink, Rusty Mertink, Robert Zoch
Counting and Posting offering this week:
Chairman- Rex Perry
Virgil Becker, Tim Symm, Chase Oltmann

ST. PAUL NOTES:

Attendance Last Week: Morning Worship- 233, Communion- 134, Bible Class- 25; Sunday School- 26, Visitors- 2, Banner Classes: Nursery III, Offering- \$15.00.

Offering Last Week: \$44,151.97

Home:		Mission:	
General	\$20,503.00	Mission	\$1,779.22
Sunday School	\$15.00	Mission Total	\$1,779.22
Lunch Room	\$2,725.50	Savings/Other:	
ECC Operating	\$7,494.25	Building Fund	\$1,000.00
Tuition	\$10,235.00	Bus Replacement Fund	\$375.00
Received 11/5/2023	\$40,972.75	Scholarship	\$25.00
		Savings/Other Total	\$1,400.00
Est. needed per week	\$27,230.00		
Received MTD	\$40,972.75	Total	\$44,151.97
Est. needed per month	\$118,000.00		

MEMORIALS: General: In memory of Melvin Schulze by Robert & Joyce Hinze - \$30.00. **Faith Lutheran High School:** In memory of Leroy Faske by Doris Fritsche - \$40.00. In memory of our parents by M/M Delvin Boriack - \$50.00.

Birthdays: Today – Daniel Krause, Melissa Taylor; 13th – Bruce Prellor; 14th – Helen Schulz; 15th – Royce Albrecht, John Hempel, Shannon Miertschin, Clinton Teinert; 16th – Christi Fritsche; 17th – Patricia Barnett, Caden Portales, Camdyn Portales; 18th – Serenity Johnson, Brianna Lehmann, Troy Wiederhold. God’s Blessings to you.

THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Today	Worship Service – 8:30 a.m. Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. LYF Meeting & Social – 2:00 p.m.
Mon - Wed	National Young Readers Challenge
Monday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.
Tuesday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m. School Chapel – 8:30 a.m. Circuit Meeting @ St. Paul – 9:00 a.m. Nominating Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Staff Bible Study – 7:30 a.m. Youth Confirmation – 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m. Board of Elders Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Friday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Family Luncheon – 11:00 a.m.
Next Sunday	Worship Service w/Communion – 8:30 a.m. Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Acolytes: Tyler Fritsche and Jagger Garner Greeter: Dorothy Schautschick Sunday School Teacher’s Meeting – 10:15 a.m.



Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us at (979) 242-2889 today to set up a shadow day for your child.

Pie Sale

FLHS will have a Pie Sale on Sunday, November 19th with pick up at Holy Cross, Immanuel, St. Paul Serbin and Mt. Calvary. All pies are a generous 10-inch size and deep-dish. PreOrders only. **Pecan pies** are \$30 each and **Pumpkin pies** are \$25 each. Place your order by calling FLHS at 242-2889. Deadline to order is Monday, November 13th.

Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast

Join us Thursday, November 16th, beginning at 10:30 am for our 7th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Rev. Thomas Obersat will be leading us in worship. Stay and fellowship with us during our pot-luck Thanksgiving feast lunch, immediately following chapel.

“Faith at Christmas” Program

FLHS students will present a Christmas concert, “Faith at Christmas,” on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm at FLHS. Program will include a collection of choir pieces, handbell pieces, hymns, scripture readings and more. Refreshments will be served following the program. Please join us!!!

*This event will also be live streamed on Facebook, for those who would prefer to view the sounds of Christmas from home.

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.

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 ✠

for the week of November 12-18, 2023

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 13...BB Games vs. 1st Baptist-Caldwell – 4 & 5 PM
- Nov. 14...School Chapel Service – 8:30 AM
- Nov. 15...OCC Shoebox Packing Party – 1:00 PM
- Nov. 17...Thanksgiving Family Luncheon – 11:30 AM
- Nov. 20-24...Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1...Midterm 3rd Six-Weeks
- Dec. 2...“Jingle Bells and Jammies” Christmas Fellowship – 9:00-10:30 AM
- Dec. 6...St. Nicholas Day observed
- Dec. 20...Favorite Carol Chapel Service – 8:30 AM
- Dec. 21...End of 3rd Six-Weeks
- Dec. 22-Jan. 8...Christmas Vacation
- Dec. 24...Children’s Christmas Eve Service – 6:00 PM



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 . . .

The **first Basketball games** will be played Monday 11/3; 4 & 5 PM.

You can still bring donations for the **OCC Shoebox Packing (11/15)** and **Thanksgiving “Stock the Cart”** project next week.

National Young Reader Challenge concludes next Wednesday. Finish strong toward your 300-page goal, and remember to **bring your Reading Challenge Tracking Sheet on Thursday** so we can reward treats and prizes that day!

Thanksgiving Family Luncheon will be served (w/reservations only) next Thursday, Nov. 17th beginning @ 11:30 AM!

Have a blessed week in the Lord! ~ Jim House, Principal

NEWS, NOTES, and HAPPENINGS

THANKSGIVING LUNCH . . . The annual St. Paul **Thanksgiving Family Lunch** will be held **next Friday, Nov. 17th beginning at 11:30 AM**. Reservations were due last Friday. Parents and other family members are invited to come join their children for lunch that day – turkey & all the fixin’s.



Families are encouraged to sit together. A **free will donation** will be gathered to help cover meal expenses. Families are reminded to bring **dessert donations** to the kitchen on Friday morning. We hope you will be able to join us for this special pre-holiday lunch and fellowship.

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION . . . Thank you to all the St. Paul students and families who brought **canned foods and dried goods** (fruits & vegetables, boxed cereals, pastas, rice, etc.) for a special “Thanksgiving Stock the Cart” collection last week. To date, we’ve gathered nearly 200 items for the Giddings Food Pantry. **Next Wednesday, (11/15) is the final opportunity** to bring donated items for this year’s special collection. Students should **bring items to their Chapel family classrooms**. Then, these items will be placed in the cart and brought to chapel on Wednesday. All items donated will be given to the Giddings Food Pantry for distribution to individuals less fortunate than ourselves. **Remember your donation next week for our “Thanksgiving Stock the Cart” collection** and help share the love of Jesus with others this Thanksgiving.



READING CHALLENGE CONCLUDES. . . The 2023 National Young Readers Challenge concludes next Wednesday, Nov. 15th. Hopefully, you've been reading all week and you're surpassing your 300-page goal. Students are reminded to **return their Reading Challenge Tracking Sheets on Thursday, Nov. 16th**. At that time, we will tally up the totals and reward prizes to the top readers in each class. In addition to these prizes, every student who reaches their personal 300-page goal by Nov. 15th and returns their sheets on Thursday will receive a special Ice Cream treat at lunchtime. Help our school reach its 20,000-page goal by reading this weekend and celebrate National Young Readers Day.



OCC DONATIONS. . . We're still accepting *donations of WOW items—small toys, personal items, school supplies, etc.* for the OCC shoeboxes. Remember, our "Shoebbox Packing Party" will be held **next Wednesday, Nov. 15th**. We hope to pack 100 shoeboxes as Christmas gifts for children around the world as part of the Samaritan's Purse OCC project. Please consider making a last-minute donation in support of Operation Christmas Child.



NEW OFFERING PROJECT. . . Our weekly chapel offerings in November & December go to support *Lutheran Bible Translators*. This important ministry provides copies of Bibles and other Gospel-centered materials for individuals around the world in their native languages. Specifically, we will be *supporting LBT workers in Papua New Guinea*. After two weeks, we've collected \$99.77 for the project. Please remember your chapel offerings every Wednesday in support of the Lutheran Bible Translators.



CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS. . . The Serbin Voyagers did a marvelous job at the PSCJ Cross Country Invitational at Faith LHS in Wurda on Nov. 3rd. 42 Serbin runners participated in the event. Ten students placed in the "Top 6" in their respective division:

- Hayes Hunsen (K) – 4th Place*
- Kayla Moore (1) – 5th Place*
- Julee Fuske (3) – 2nd Place*
- Luke Jones (3) – 1st Place*
- Sam Meyer (3) – 2nd Place*
- Macy Sommerfeld (4) – 1st Place*
- Max Fuske (5) – 6th Place*
- Max Sommerfeld (6) – 2nd Place*
- Hudson Short (7) – 2nd Place*
- Elijah Kueck (8) – 4th Place*



We congratulate all our runners on their fine efforts cross country success!

BASKETBALL NEWS. . . The Voyager Boys' & Girls' Basketball teams are busy practicing in preparation for the opening of the 2023-24 season next week. This year, we're fielding four teams: Varsity Boys & Girls and JV Boys and Girls. We'll tip off the season on **Monday, Nov. 13th at home vs. 1st Baptist-Caldwell; JV Boys @ 4:00 PM followed by Varsity Boys @ 5:00 PM.** Watch the New Blast for a complete list of November & December games (complete season schedule is available soon on the SPS website). Plan now to attend and cheer our efforts throughout the season!



CHAPEL SERVICE CHANGE. . . Please note—our Weekly Chapel Service will be held **next Tuesday, Nov. 14th** at 8:30 AM as welcome the area Lutheran pastors to worship with us that day.

GREAT TURKEY ESCAPE. . . Hey kids, help us save the turkey from becoming part of our Thanksgiving feast! Check out the "Great Turkey Escape" flyer and cut-out shape that was sent home last week. Cut out the turkey shape, decorate it anyway you want, and return it to Mrs. Kalbas **tomorrow (Monday), Nov. 13th**. Prizes will be given to all participants. Be creative and have fun! Participate in the Great Turkey Escape!



JINGLE BELLS & JAMMIES. . . St. Paul will sponsor a special holiday activity, "Jingle Bells & Jammies" on **Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 9:00-10:30 AM** in the gym. Following a light "donut & milk or juice" breakfast, we'll sing carols, do Christmas crafts, enjoy Christmas treats, and share the story of Christ's birth at Christmas. Great fun for children ages 2 through 4th Grade and their families! Watch for a *Reservation Flyer coming home* next week and plan to attend!



HAVE A GREAT WEEK! . . One more week until Thanksgiving Break—and oh, how much we have to be thankful for! As we approach this special time of "thanks-giving", let's also remember that we as God's people should be of the mind and heart to be "thanks-living", as we "Follow Jesus" who became a servant for us and gave this life as a ransom for our sins. If I can be of any service to you next week, feel free to stop by my office or call for an appointment.



Your partner in Christ,
James L. House, Principal