

# 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  
Rev. Schmidt 716-7632

Church Office E-mail [st.paulserbin@verizon.net](mailto:st.paulserbin@verizon.net)  
Church Address: 1572 CR 211 Giddings, TX 78942

---

## The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

19 November 2023

---

### Welcome! *God's Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our Forgiveness of Others.*

The Day of the Lord is "near and hastening fast," and it will be "a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation" (Zeph. 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish "the men who are complacent" concerning His Word, "who fill their master's house with violence and fraud" (Zeph. 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: "Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them" (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are "good and faithful" stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, "God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also "put on the breastplate of faith and love" in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).

We invite you all to worship with us again.

\*\*\*\*\*

### In Our Prayers:

Those recovering from surgeries and illness:

- Royce Albrecht-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

**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: 851, 508, 781 v. 1&2, 783, 733, 348, 655

Sermon Text: Zephaniah 1:7-16

The Sermon: **“The Day of the Lord is Near”**

- † **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God in honor of Patricia Barnett on her birthday by Shelbey & Nathen.
- † **The Altar Stand flowers** are placed to the glory of God in memory of Bonnie Menzel by her family.
- † **Correction:** Larry Lehmann was listed as Delvin Boriack’s uncle in last week’s bulletin. He was Delvin’s brother-in-law.
- † **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 \$36,217.44. We are **\$1,282.56** away from meeting our 2023 goal.
- † **Advent Devotional Books** are available from the ushers this morning and in the church office.
- † **Thanksgiving Food Drive.** The school children are again collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items to be given to the Giddings Food Pantry. If you would like to contribute, bring your contribution to the church office or the Thanksgiving worship service.
- † **Thanksgiving Worship.** Make plans to attend our Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. This service will be conducted in both German and English. May this special day be one in which we realize the gifts which come from God's hand so that we may receive such gifts with thanksgiving.
- † **Radio Broadcast:** The Thanksgiving Day service will be broadcast on KBUK (FM 104.9) radio of LaGrange. Our thanks to First National Bank of Giddings for sponsoring this broadcast. Bulletins for the service will be available in the church office on Wednesday afternoon.
- † **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee met on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The list of nominations for various offices is included in the bulletin this morning. If for some reason you feel you cannot serve, please contact the Chairman, Scott Jones or call the church office.
- † **The St. Paul LYF** will set up the Nativity Scenes at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- † **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. An order form is included in the bulletin this morning.
- † The LWML will be selling Poinsettias for \$10.00 each to be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. To order please fill out the order form in the bulletin this morning, and return it to the Church Office or put it in the collection plate. Orders are due by Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. **Please note that due to availability no orders will be accepted after December 12<sup>th</sup>.** If you need further information, please contact Dorothy Schautschick at 716-0094.
- † **St. Paul LWML** is having a clothing and toy drive for Orphan Grain Train until December 11<sup>th</sup>. The clothes and toys can be new/used. Orphan Grain Train will deliver items to The Cove, a homeless shelter in Coppers Cove and to Cy-Fair Helping Hands, another homeless shelter. It is requested that you put the items in a black trash bag. Items can be dropped off at the church office.

**LUTHERAN HOUR:** Next Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, **“Loving Mercy”**. Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy. Will those who do good things be saved? Or, will those who are saved, do good things? Dr. Dean Nadasdy says those who love Christ also love showing mercy to others. (Matthew 25:34-40). 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](http://lhm.org) for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live.

**Life Thoughts in the Church Year:  
November 19 – Pentecost XXV**

Many around us despair because the world pressures them into the violence and fraud (Zephaniah 1:9) of viewing death as a solution to difficulty. In the sanctity of every human life, we have riches to spare (Matthew 25:15). Gospel hope and joy are not just for us to possess. Jesus brings us faith and life to proclaim and put into practice.

**Serving today:** Elders– Monroe Schatte, Jr. and Dwayne Schatte  
**Organist-** Daniel Krause  
**Acolytes-** Tyler Fritsche and Jagger Garner  
**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-** Glen Albrecht  
 Ty Kasper, Carson Becker, Payton Oltmann  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**ST. PAUL NOTES:**

**Attendance Last Week:** Morning Worship- 293, Bible Class- 21; Sunday School- 29, Offering- \$27.00.

**Offering Last Week:** \$20,824.75

<b>Home:</b>		<b>Mission:</b>	
General	\$12,041.78	Mission	\$401.22
Sunday School	\$27.00	<b>Mission Total</b>	<b>\$401.22</b>
Thrivent	\$16.00	<b>Savings/Other:</b>	
Lunch Room	\$600.00	Building Fund	\$75.00
ECC Operating	\$3,881.25	<b>Savings/Other Total</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
Use of Facility	\$300.00		
Tuition	\$3,482.50	Total	\$20,824.75
<b>Received 11/12/2023</b>	<b>\$20,348.53</b>		

**Est. needed per week** \$27,230.00  
**Received MTD** \$61,321.28  
**Est. needed per month** \$118,000.00

**MEMORIALS: General:** In memory of Larry Lehmann by Marvin & Charlyn Matthijetz - \$40.00. In memory of Marvin Bamsch by Leonard & Lucy Mitschke - \$100.00. In memory of Leroy Faske by M/M Gilbert Krause - \$25.00. In memory of Gladys Dillman by Herman Gersch - \$25.00. In memory of Evelyn Kaiser by Herman Gersch - \$25.00. In memory of Melvin Schulze by Herman Gersch - \$25.00. **South Lee County Volunteer Fire Department:** In memory of Larry Lehmann by M/M Delvin Boriack - \$25.00.

**Birthdays: Today** – Randy Becker, Kinlea Jenke, Logan Taylor; 21<sup>st</sup> – Mason Becker, Robin Buscha; 23<sup>rd</sup> – Marjorie Albrecht, Jerry Fischer; 24<sup>th</sup> – Emma Miertschin, Travis Wiederhold, Natalie Kalbas; 25<sup>th</sup> – Ayla Droegemueller, Karla Hinze, Priscilla Stanfield. God’s Blessings to you.

**THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK**

Today **Worship Service w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.**  
 Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School Teacher’s Meeting – 10:15 a.m.

Mon.-Fri. **Thanksgiving Holiday – No School**

Tuesday Adult Choir – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday **Thanksgiving English/German Worship – 9:00 a.m.**  
 Acolytes: Lane Gersch and Trenton Grange

Thurs. – Fri. **Thanksgiving Holiday - ECC Closed**

Saturday LYF Set up Nativity Scenes – 9:00 a.m.

Next Sunday **Worship Service – 8:30 a.m.**  
 Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.  
 Acolytes: Alice Gurka and Cooper Hinze  
 Greeter: Lisa Schmidt



### **Thanksgiving Break**

FLHS wishes each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration. Our offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Break from November 20th to November 24th. Have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday!

### **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.

### **Athletics**

The basketball season is in full swing. Our next game will be Tuesday, November 28th at St. Paul Shiner at 5pm. Come join the cheerleaders and cheer on the falcons to victory!

The next archery competition will be Thursday, November 30th at FLHS. We host Grace Lutheran School Brenham, beginning at 2:45 pm.

### **“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.

### **Thank you!**

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!

# 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 November 19-Dec. 1, 2023

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 20-24...Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 27... BB Games vs. Bastrop &  
TNT – 4:36-7 PM
- Nov. 29... School Chapel Service  
– 8:30 AM
- Nov. 30... JV GBB Game vs. Calvary  
4:30 PM  
V BBB Game @ Coupland  
7:15 PM
- Dec. 1...Midterm 3<sup>rd</sup> Six-Weeks
- Dec. 2...“Jingle Bells and Jammies”  
Christmas Fellowship  
– 9:00-10:30 AM
- Dec. 6...St. Nicholas Day observed
- Dec. 8... Youth Ag Awareness Day  
(Gr. 3-4 Field Trip)  
Caroling @ Giddings Library  
(Gr. 5-8) – 11:15 AM
- Dec. 20...Favorite Carol Chapel  
Service 8:30 AM
- Dec. 21...End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Six-Weeks  
All-School Christmas Party  
and Gift Exchange  
– dismissal @ 11:45 AM
- 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 972-948-3990

### Our Mission

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



### From the Principal's Desk . . .

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING.** . . to all the students and families of St. Paul Lutheran School. St. Paul Lutheran and the school office will be **closed next week, November 20-24 for Thanksgiving Break.**

Following Thanksgiving, we have 3 big events at SPS:

- **First Basketball games** – 11/27 (Home) and 11/30 (H & A)
- **Jingle Bells & Jammies Christmas Fellowship** (12/2)
- **St. Nicholas Day** observed (12/6)

Stay safe and healthy and have a blessed Thanksgiving Week!  
– Jim House, Principal

## NEWS, NOTES, and HAPPENINGS

**“JINGLE BELLS & JAMMIES”** . . . As we prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, St. Paul will sponsor a special holiday activity, “Jingle Bells & Jammies” on **Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and their families!** Look for the **Reservation Flyer coming home today** with your child and attached to today’s newsletter email and **return it on Monday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>** following Thanksgiving. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!



**SPECIAL 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 over the past few weeks. Thanks to your generosity, we’ve **collected 608 food items** that will be given to the Giddings Food Pantry for distribution to individuals less fortunate than ourselves. Thanks again for sharing the love of Jesus with others this Thanksgiving through your donations to our “Thanksgiving Stock the Cart” collection.



### Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving Break!

From the Faculty and Staff  
of St. Paul Lutheran-Serbin



**SHOEBOX PACKING SUCCESS.** . . Thanks to your generous donations of small toys, personal items, school supplies, etc., we were able to pack 100 shoeboxes on Wednesday for the children of Operation Christmas Child. The boxes have now been delivered to the collection center in Smithville and will soon be sent to the main distribution center in Dallas for shipment to children around the world this Christmas.



Along with the box of items we packed, these children will also receive a Bible or Bible Story booklet telling them about the Love of Jesus, the Christ Child born on Christmas. Thank you to all who donated items, and thanks kids for all your good work!



**READING CHALLENGE RESULTS.** . . Hey, Voyagers! You did an outstanding job reading for the National Young Readers Day Challenge! You read a total of 46,065 pages in two weeks blowing away our 30,000 page goal. More importantly, 64 of our 80 students surpassed their individual goals of 300 pages. That's great! This year's high class was the 8<sup>th</sup> grade who read a total of 7,965 pages followed closely by the 5<sup>th</sup> graders with 6,846 pages. Individual classroom reading leaders were:

Kind.	Jocelyn Jones	673 pages
1 <sup>st</sup> Gr.	Gabriel Kueck	823 pages
2 <sup>nd</sup> Gr.	Katrina Kueck	1,470 pages
3 <sup>rd</sup> Gr.	Jack Hill	1,433 pages
4 <sup>th</sup> Gr.	Logan Taylor	3,334 pages
5 <sup>th</sup> Gr.	Avery Moore	4,306 pages
6 <sup>th</sup> Gr.	Sarah Meyer	2,547 pages
7 <sup>th</sup> Gr.	Trenton Grange	1,319 pages
8 <sup>th</sup> Gr.	Miriam Meyer	3,231 pages



Now that the Challenge is over, don't stop reading. We encourage everyone at St. Paul-Serbin to continue to read...read...read as National Young Readers.

**HOOPS SEASON BEGINS.** . . The Voyager Boys teams tipped off the 2023-24 season this week with a victory for the Varsity Boys and a loss for the JV Boys. Following Thanksgiving Break, both the Boys' & Girls' teams take to the court for the following games.

- Monday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> (home) vs. Good Shepherd  
– JV Girls @; 4:00 PM; JV Boys @; 5:00 PM
- Monday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> (home) vs. INT-Paige  
– Var. Girls @; 6:00 PM; Var. Boys @; 7:00 PM
- Thursday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> vs. Calvary-Bustrop  
– JV Girls (home) @; 4:00 PM
- Thursday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at Coupland  
– Var. Boys (away) @; 7:15 PM
- Monday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> (away) at Immanuel-Giddings  
JV Boys @; 4:00 PM; Var. Girls @; 5:00 PM;  
Var. Boys @; 6:00 PM



Watch next week's New Blast for a complete list of December games (season schedules are available on the SPS website). Plan now to attend and cheer our efforts throughout the season!

### NEW OFFERING PROJECT

Our weekly chapel offerings in November & December go to support *Lutheran Bible Translators*; specifically, the workers in *Papua New Guinea*. This important ministry provides copies of Bibles and other Gospel-centered materials for individuals around the world in their native languages. To date, we've collected \$179,83 for the project. Please remember your chapel offerings every Wednesday in support of the Lutheran Bible Translators.



### HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

. . . One more week until Thanksgiving—and oh, how much we have to be thankful for! As we approach this special time of "thanksgiving", let's also remember that we as God's people should be of the mind and heart to be "thanksgiving", 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

