

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

Serbin, Texas



Rev. John Schmidt, Pastor  
Kelsey Schatte, Principal

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School 366-9650  
Rev. S. 716-7632  
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Church Address: 1572 CR 211 Giddings, TX 78942

## The Third Sunday in Advent

14 December 2025

**Welcome! *The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross.*** Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see “the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, “be patient” and “establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,” so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that “sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Is. 35:10).

We invite you all to worship with us again.

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### In Our Prayers:

Those recovering from surgeries and illness:

Chris Birnbaum-recovering

Troy Bise-recovering

MaKayla Blackman-recovering (granddaughter of Billy Krause)

Monroe Brade (uncle of James, Johnny, Larry & Leroy Kalbas)

Anna Boriack-recovering (daughter-in-of Delvin & Judy Boriack)

Ginger Clifford-recovering (sister of Nancy Kasper)

Carl Dittmar-recovering (father of Jennifer Smith)

Herbert Handrick (uncle of Shannon Handrick)

Cindy Hardy-hospitalized (cousin of Harold Krause)

Roselie Johnson-recovering (mother of Carie Oltmann)

Nancy Kasper-recovering

Billy Krause-recovering

Hildegard Krause-recovering

Mary Ann McCombs-recovering

Mike Maass-hospitalized

Ruben Melcher-recovering (uncle of James, Johnny, Larry & Leroy Kalbas)

Stephen Mersiovsky-recovering (son of Stephen Mersiovsky)

Chris Miertschin-recovering

Gene Namken-recovering (brother of Linda Oltmann)

David Wachsmann (cousin of Billy Krause)

Alton Weiser-recovering

John Boy Weiser-recovering

Ruby Weiser-recovering

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

#### Those fighting cancer including:

Teresita Brodrick (aunt of David Wittman)

Vernon Bryant (friend of Arthur & Dianna Noack)

Brandon Cleland (brother of Sonya Schautschick)

Ralph & Debbie Domel (sister & brother-in-law of Mary Jatzlau)

Christie Hall (friend of Mark Arldt)

Dana Herzog (niece of Becky Weise)

Franklin Hoffman (father of Maxine Bradshaw)

Brenda Karisch (friend of Bonnie Wenke family)

Steven Kelly (cousin of Jessica Gruetzner, brother-in-law of Christi Bradford)

Bethany Lara (daughter of Kathy Gersch)

Jensyn Lesikar (nephew of Kasey Rosales)

Ruby Maass (mother of Linda Schonhoeft)

Suzanne Mogonye-recovering (mother of Lindsey Hansen)

Cannon Martin (nephew of Christopher Taylor)

Kelli Meinholdt (sister of Carie Oltmann)

Rhonda Mitschke (friend of Christi Fritsche)

Walter Rehle (friend of the Arldt's from Germany)

Carol Sander

Diane Sanders (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)

Karen Symm (sister of Michael Symm)

Christopher Taylor

Tina Warren (mother of Jason Heuermann)

Jordan Weidemann (friend of Byron Kalbas)

Judy Westbrook (mother of Heather Krause)

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

Steven Cutlip (brother of Stephanie Symm), Fort Bliss, El Paso

Coy Hunt (son of Shannon & Christine Hunt) Ft. Drum, New York

Dylan Robbins (cousin of Michelle Birnbaum) Jacksonville, North Carolina

Aron Marak (nephew of Mike and Susie Maass) Fr. Bragg, North Carolina

Kyler Brown (friend of Dorthy Schautschick) U.S. Navy-Bahrain

Benjamin Symm-Training Camp Johnson, North Carolina

Jacob Droegemueller Ft. Eisenhower, Georgia

Corey Pedeville (friend of Dorothy Schautschick) Army-serving in Saudia Arabia

Brittany Loudon (daughter of Bryan and Antoinette Winkles) Navy, stationed in Florida

Kolton Alen (nephew of Mike & Susie Maass) Army, stationed at Ft. Sill, Lawton, OK

### 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: 594, 349, 781 v. 1&2, 515, 340

Sermon Text: James 5:7-11

The Sermon: **“Patiently Waiting”**

Adult Choir Anthem: ♪ *“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

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

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

**Cody Wyatt Smith**

Cody is the son of Joshua and Jennifer Smith. His baptismal sponsor is Gloria Smith

- ✠ **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God to commemorate the December, 1854 arrival of the Wends in Galveston, Texas and the 1871 dedication of St. Paul Lutheran stone church building by the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.
- ✠ **Thank You** to the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders that helped move the items, for pick up, that were collected for Orphan Grain Train. *The St. Paul LWML*
- ✠ **Thank You** for all the generous support given to the GHS BBQ Club!! If you purchased tickets, don’t forget to pick up your plates today at the picnic grounds!
- ✠ **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.
- ✠ **Mission Goal.** In the Voters Meeting held on October 13, 2024 the Voters set our 2025 Mission goal at \$37,500.00. To date our Mission contributions are at \$39, 498.12. We have exceeded our mission goal for this year. Thank you for sharing God’s blessings.
- ✠ **Voters Meeting.** The December 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.
- ✠ **Portals of Prayer.** The January-March Portals of Prayer are available from the ushers this morning and in the church office.
- ✠ **Support St. Paul Lutheran School** at Pizza Hut! On **Thursday, December 18**, order from Pizza Hut and a portion of your purchase will go to support our school. Enjoy a night off from cooking and help bless our students and teachers at the same time!
- ✠ **Christmas Cards** are available at \$5.00/box in the church office or, contact Doris Fritsche at 979-212-1886 for cards.
- ✠ **2026 Offering Envelopes.** The **2026** adult offering envelopes are available to be picked up in the church office meeting room. The 2026 children offering envelopes were sent home with the children on Friday. **Please continue to use the 2025 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 2025 church year, please give this before the New Year’s Day service. If you failed to receive your 2026 envelopes or have any questions, please contact the church office.
- ✠ **Immanuel Lutheran-Giddings** is seeking to hire a church secretary. This full-time, front office position attends to visitors, fields phone calls, and handles various administrative duties. Experience working in an office and/or administrative setting is strongly preferred but not required. Please contact Candice Hahn in the church office for a copy of the job description and to submit a resume/application, [chahn@ilgtx.com](mailto:chahn@ilgtx.com).
- ✠ **Give the gift of Financial Peace** – Ever feel like you can’t get ahead with money? You’re not alone. You’d be surprised how many people feel this way. But there’s hope – with a Financial Peace University class! Over nine weeks, you’ll learn biblical principles for handling money that will give you peace with your finances. Pastor and Mandy Kaspar will facilitate the course at Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, located at 800 N. Franklin St in La Grange, starting Thursday, January 15, 2026. Cost is \$99 per family, and there is space for nine couples (18 individuals). Please sign up by January 5 either by calling the church office at 979-968-3938 or by emailing [secretary@mtcalvary-lcms.org](mailto:secretary@mtcalvary-lcms.org). This is a gift that will enrich your lives now and in the future!

**LUTHERAN HOUR:** Next Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, **“Everybody Is Somebody”**. Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God sends His people—the Church—to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise. Romans 1:7. 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:**

#### **December 14 – Advent 3**

God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ’s forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.

### **THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK**

Today	<b>Worship Service – 8:30 a.m.</b> Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Voters Meeting – 7:00 p.m. LAF Set up Christmas Trees
Monday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.
Tuesday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m. Board of Elders Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	School Chapel – 8:30 a.m. Youth Confirmation – 6:00 p.m. <b>Advent Candlelight Carol Service – 7:00 p.m.</b> Acolytes: Madilyn Kalbas and Emmalynn Knott Greeter: Lana Kaiser
Thursday	Staff Bible Study – 7:30 a.m.
Friday	<b>All School Christmas Party Luncheon</b> <b>School Early Release</b> <b>ECC Pajama/Movie Day</b>
Next Sunday	<b>Song Service w/Communion– 8:30 a.m.</b> Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Acolytes: James Miertschin and Whitlee Smolik Greeter: Melodi Oltmann

**Birthdays: Today** – Colby Oltmann; 15<sup>th</sup> – Kari Jatzlau, John Boy Weiser; 16<sup>th</sup> – Lane Gersch; 17<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Gersch, Brandi Perry; 18<sup>th</sup> – Chris Birnbaum. God’s Blessings to you.

**Serving today:** **Elders**– Michael Krause and Tim Weise  
**Organist**- Susan Michael  
**Acolytes**- Max Faske and Lucy Gurka  
**Head Ushers**- Donald Becker  
**Captain**- Troy Menzel **Assistant**- Mark Jones  
**Ushers**- Cooper Hinze, John Hinze, Scott Jones,  
Russell Kappler, Brooks Kasper, Kaden Kasper,  
Kyle Kasper, Ty Kasper, Clyde Schimank,  
Troy Wiederhold  
**Counting and Posting offering this week:**  
**Chairman**- Mason Becker  
Tim Symm, Nathan Michael, Carson Becker  
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## ST. PAUL NOTES:

**Attendance Last Week:** Midweek Advent (12/3/2025)- 115, Communion- 55, Morning Worship- 239, Communion- 135, Bible Class- 22; Sunday School- 21, Banner Classes: Grades 6 & 8, Offering- \$21.00.

**Offering Last Week:** \$49,628.08

Home:		Mission:	
General	\$27,767.66	Mission	\$2,299.75
Advent (12/3/2025)	\$1,805.00	<b>Mission Total</b>	<b>\$2,299.75</b>
Sunday School	\$21.00	<b>Savings/Other:</b>	
Lunch Room	\$640.00	<b>Savings/Other Total</b>	
ECC Operating	\$10,149.67		
Tuition	\$6,945.00	Total	\$49,628.08
<b>Received 12/7/2025</b>	<b>\$47,328.33</b>		

**Est. needed per week**      **\$31,870.00**

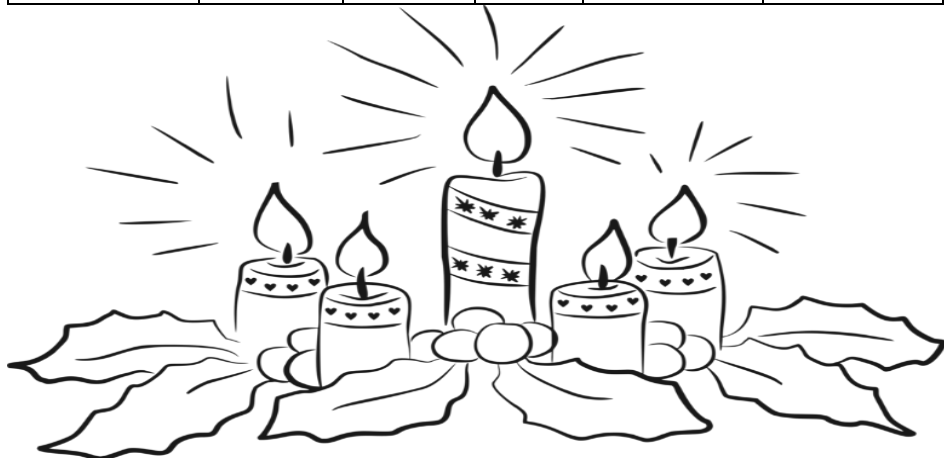
**Received MTD**              **\$47,328.33**

**Est. needed per month**    **\$138,103.00**

**MEMORIALS: General:** In memory of my dear husband George Hernandez by Virginia Hernandez - \$1,000.00. In memory of Barbara June Collins by Linda Jonaes - \$50.00. In honor of Steven & Nancy Kasper by Jack & Marian Wiederhold - \$50.00. In honor of Cecelia Sonsel Gloger, my great grandmother born in 1882 to Karl and Sophia Sonsel. Thank you to St. Paul for keeping Wendish heritage alive by Blair Kaine - \$150.00.

## 2025 Advent/Christmas Schedule

Service	Day	Date	Time	Detail	Offering
Candlelight Carol Service	Wed	Dec. 17	7:00 p.m.		General
Song Service	Sun	Dec. 21	8:30 a.m.		General
Christmas Eve	Wed	Dec. 24	6:00 p.m.		½ Lutheran Braille Workers & ½ Bus Fund
Christmas Day	Thurs	Dec. 25	9:00 a.m.	English/German	½ LSS & ½ LBT
New Year's Eve	Wed	Dec. 31	7:00 p.m.		General
New Year's Day	Thurs	Jan. 1	9:00 a.m.	Communion	General





### **End of Year Giving**

In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area.

Faith has set the goal to raise \$50,000 through fundraising efforts through the end of the year as we move "Forward in Faith." As of today, over \$32,000 has already been raised - what a tremendous blessing! Please consider how you can help us reach our goal. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

### **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!

### **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.

### **Athletic Schedule**

The full schedule for archery and basketball are posted on our website. Our next basketball game is Tuesday, December 16th at Dime Box High School at 5pm. Come cheer on our Falcons!

### **Raffle Items**

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

### **"Faith at Christmas" Program**

The students gave a marvelous performance at Faith at Christmas this past week as we celebrated the birth of our Savior. We were incredibly blessed to give this performance to those in attendance and those viewing from home. The video of the program can still be found on our Facebook page if you were unable to watch it on Tuesday.



Students involved in the music programs at FLHS.