

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. S. 716-7632

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

The Third Sunday in Advent

18 December 2022

Welcome! *God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary.* The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, "God with us." The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus "descended from David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3-4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called "Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

We invite you all to worship with us again.

In Our Prayers:

Those recovering from surgeries and illness:

Gladys Arldt-recovering

Levi Bise-recovering

Leroy Kalbas-hospitalized

Nancy Kasper

Chris Miertschin

Shannon Miertschin

Herb Roeber-hospitalized

Ruby Schulze-recovering

Greg Sorrento-recovering (nephew of Doris Fritsche)

Cindy Umphries-recovering (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)

Ruby Weiser-recovering

Kenneth Weiser

Ralph Wenke-recovering

Our members in nursing homes and our shut-ins.

Those fighting cancer including:

Lillian Bamsch (sister-in-law of Charlyn & Marvin Matthijetz)

Teresita Brodrick (aunt of David Wittman)

Don Claxton (father of Jeff Claxton)

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)

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

Betty Kildair (aunt of Dorothy Schautschick)

Theresa Krause

Bethany Lara (daughter of Kathy Gersch)

Heather Lilly (granddaughter of Irene Noack)

Gladys Mathena (sister of Frances Miertschin and Marilyn Miertschin)

Rhonda Mitschke (friend of Christi Fritsche)

Carol Sander

Diane Sanders (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)

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 Irwin, CA

Kosh Ozmun (son of Stephanie Miertschin), Ft. Hood, 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) Newport, Rhode Island

Randall Weise (grandson of Bernice Doebbler) Ft.

Huachuca, Arizona

Prayer of thanksgiving:

Theresa Krause-favorable medical testing results

Those who mourn:

The family of Tamshaw Becker

The family of Sandy Zettel (mother-in-law of Jessica Zettle)

The family of Nathan Wachsmann (friend of Marvin & Charlyn Matthijetz)

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—Worship Folder

- ✠ **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God in memory of Kenneth Lorenz by Milton & Geraldine Albrecht & family and Robert & Joyce Hinze & family.
- ✠ **Voters Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the Voter's Meeting that was held on Sunday, December 11th, are included in the bulletin this morning.
- ✠ **Portals of Prayer.** The January-March Portals of Prayer are available from the ushers this morning and in the church office.
- ✠ **Mission Goal.** In the Voters Meeting held on December 12, 2021, the Voters set our 2022 Mission goal at \$37,500.00. To date our Mission contributions are at **\$36,001.00**. We are **\$1,499.00** away from meeting our 2022 goal.
- ✠ **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.
- ✠ **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, 2023, otherwise you may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Day Service on Sunday and check your name off the list.
- ✠ **Christmas Eve Service.** Saturday 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 Sunday, 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.
- ✠ **Sunday School Teachers.** We are in need of 3 new Sunday School Teachers. If you are interested, please contact Pastor or Mike Symm
- ✠ **Attention All Lutheran Ladies!** If you are interested in serving as a greeter for church services, please contact Melodi at 979-540-0039. No experience necessary and it's a great way to represent St. Paul to our visitors.
- ✠ **LWML.** The LWML is again selling Christmas Cards. They are \$4/box. Contact Doris Fritsche at 979-212-1886.
- ✠ **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. Order forms are available on the table at the back of the church.
- ✠ **2023 Offering Envelopes.** The **2023** adult offering envelopes are available to be picked up in the church office meeting room. The children's envelopes were sent home, with the children, on Friday. **Please continue to use the 2022 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 2022 church year, please give this before the New Year's Day service. If you failed to receive your 2023 envelopes or have any questions, please contact the church office.

LUTHERAN HOUR: Next Sunday, "**Gestures of Hope**". Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Michael Zeigler shows how even the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way, by God's grace. (Isaiah 7:14). 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:

December 18 – Advent IV

Surprise pregnancy once redeemed the whole world. Joseph would have aborted the undertaking, but the Lord explicitly forbid it (Matthew 1:19-21). Even human limitations could not prevent the Heavenly Father from keeping His promises (Romans 1:2-3). So every surprise pregnancy we encounter—along with our lives and everyone else's (Psalm 24:1)—belongs to Almighty God, and we may rejoice to say so.

Serving today: Elders– Monroe Schatte, Jr. and Dwayne Schulze
Organist- Susan Michael
Acolytes- Gabriel Bailey and Tyler Fritsche
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 Ethan Ray, Shane Ray,
 Shane Sander, Robert Zoch
Counting and Posting offering this week:
Chairman- Glen Albrecht
 Ty Kasper, Carson Becker, Nathan Michael

THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Today **Worship Service w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.**
Song Service
 Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School Teachers Meeting – 10:15 a.m.
 LYF Caroling – 3:00 p.m.

Monday Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday Staff Bible Study – 7:30 a.m.
 Favorite Carol Chapel Service – 8:30 a.m.
Candlelight Carol Service – 7:00 p.m.
Acolytes: Lydia Goodson and Cooper Hinze
Greeter: Pam Krause

Thursday **All School Christmas Party and Christmas Luncheon**
School Early Release
 Board of Elder’s Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Friday **No School – Christmas Vacation**

Saturday Christmas Eve Worship Service – 6:00 p.m.
Acolytes: Tucker Kalbas and Jozlyn Perry

Next Sunday **Christmas Day Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.**
 Acolytes: Benjamin Schonhoeft and Brooke Lehmann
 Greeter: Theresa Krause

Birthdays: Today – Chris Birnbaum; 21st – Michelle Birnbaum, Herman Gersch; 22nd – Gladys Dillman, Scott Jones, John Weiser; 23rd – Jill Jackson, Daniel Schulze; 24th – Krista Jatzlau. God’s Blessings to you.

ST. PAUL NOTES:

Attendance Last Week: Midweek Advent-(12/7)- 87, Morning Worship- 210, Bible Class- 13; Sunday School- 32, Banner Classes: Nursery I, Grade 3, Offering- \$23.25.

Offering Last Week: \$30,118.31

Home:		Mission:	
General	\$17,436.50	Mission	\$1,054.00
Advent (12/7)	\$716.00	Lutheran Hour	\$50.00
Sunday School	\$23.25	Mission Total	\$1,104.00
Lunch Room	\$767.00	Savings/Other:	
ECC Operating	\$2,715.16	School Fund	\$1,000.00
Tuition	\$5,306.40	Building Fund	\$1,030.00
Received 12/11/2022	\$26,964.31	Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
		Savings/Other Total	\$2,050.00
Est. needed per week	\$22,500.00		
Received MTD	\$51,629.87	Total	\$30,118.31
Est. needed per month	\$97,500.00		

MEMORIALS: General: In memory of Lillian Wenke by Robert & Joyce Hinze - \$25.00; by Lillian Robertson - \$20.00; by Frances Mutscher - \$20.00; by Robin & Sherri Buscha - \$75.00; by Linda Jones - \$25.00; by Irene Buscha - \$25.00; by Peggy Bertsch - \$35.00; by Mark & Trisha Krugler - \$50.00; by Jerrell & Oranell Dunk - \$25.00; by Raymond & Lanetta Kipp - \$25.00. In memory of Colton Kimball and Lillian Wenke by Martin & Jeannie Werchan - \$100.00. **Mission:** In memory of Lillian Wenke by Marvin Lorenz - \$25.00. **Lutheran Hour:** In memory of Erna Kuskie by Wilbert & Carol Jean Noack - \$50.00. Building Fund: In memory of Lillian Wenke by Monroe Becker - \$30.00. **Scholarship Fund:** In memory of Clarence Pietsch by David & Karen Schmidt - \$20.00.

2022 Advent/Christmas Schedule

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





Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. 8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

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!

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. Matching funds are currently available to us from some gracious private donors, so please help us take full advantage of this opportunity. 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!

"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.



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 December 11-17, 2022

2022-23 School Year Theme – “Won By One” – 1 Corinthians 15:57

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 12...BB Games @ Coupland
5:15 & 6:00 PM
- Dec. 13...Xmas Caroling – 10:30 AM
BB Games vs. TNU Acad.
– 4:00 & 5:00 PM
- Dec. 15...Xmas Caroling – 9:00 AM
BB Games @ Giddings
– 3:00-4:00/5:00 PM
- Dec. 21...Favorite Carol Chapel
Service – 8:30 AM
- Dec. 22...End of 3rd Six-Weeks
All-School Christmas Party
and Gift Exchange
Early Dismissal @ 11:45 AM
- Dec. 23-Jan. 9...Christmas Vacation
- Dec. 24...Children's Christmas Eve
Service – 6:00 PM
- Jan. 10...Classes Resume – 8:15 AM
BB Games @ Breham
– 4:00 & 5:00 PM
- Jan. 12...Distribution of 3rd Six-Week
Report Cards



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 . . .

Students will continue community Christmas Caroling next week; check time and locations below and join us if you can!

Three basketball games next week as we wind down the first half of the season; check the article below for teams, times and locations.

Only two weeks of school left before Christmas Vacation with lots of activities planned for all! Remember, school will be **dismissed early at 11:45 AM on Thursday, Dec. 17th**. Buses will run routes accordingly. Make your pick-up plans now!

Have a Blessed 3rd Week of Advent! – Jim House, Principal

NEWS, NOTES, and HAPPENINGS

CHRISTMAS CAROLING. . . Next week, the SPS students will continue sharing Christmas cheer and the message of Jesus' birth by Christmas caroling in the Giddings community. Dates and locations for caroling are as follows:

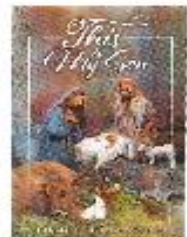
- Tues, 12/13 – Phillips & Luckey (Gr. 5-8) @ 10:30 AM
- Thurs, 12/15 – Bee's Blessings (Gr. K-2) @ 9:00 AM

If you can, join us for any of this caroling fun in December.



"FAVORITE CAROL" CHAPEL. . . Join the St. Paul students and staff for our "Favorite Carol" Chapel Service on **Wed, Dec. 21st at 8:30 AM**. Come usher in Christmas with us through the words of our favorite Christmas carols as chosen by the students. Parents and younger siblings are invited to attend this special chapel service, too.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. . . Plan to attend the 2022 St. Paul Children's Christmas Eve Service on **Saturday, Dec. 24th at 6:00 PM** in the church with overflow seating in the gym. Our Grade K-8 students will lead this evening worship service entitled, "*This is My Son*" 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 birth of the Newborn King, Jesus together on Dec. 24th!



BASKETBALL NEWS. . . The 2022-23 Voyager basketball season is off to a great start with several early-season victories. Next week's schedule looks like this; note the addition of games on Mon, 12/12:

- 12/12 – Var. Girls @ Coupland – 5:15 PM (A)
– Var. Boys @ Coupland – 6:00 PM (A)
- 12/13 – Girls vs. TNT Academy – 4:00 PM (11)
– Boys vs. TNT Academy – 5:00 PM (11)
- 12/15 – JV Boys @ Immanuel-Giddings – 3:00 PM (A)
– JV Girls @ Immanuel-Giddings – 4:00 PM (A)
– Var. Boys @ Immanuel-Giddings – 5:00 PM (A)



Then, the Voyager teams will take a break from games over Christmas Vacation; *watch for information coming home next week concerning possible practice/open gym times over Christmas Vacation.*

LIBRARY DAY. . . Our final Library Day before Christmas Break will be next Friday, Dec. 16th. Please remember to bring any books that are due that day, and be ready to check out new books to read over Christmas Vacation. Also, keep in mind—the School Library will be closed over Christmas Vacation and reopen Jan. 10th.

CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY. . . The Christmas fun will begin on *Thursday, Dec. 22nd at 9:15 AM* with our special All-School Christmas Assembly (following Christmas Service rehearsal) in the church. Students and staff will enjoy the fun of singing traditional Christmas carols and other fun activities to kick off our special day before Christmas vacation.



CHRISTMAS DRESS DAY. . . Do you have some special Christmas pajamas maybe with candy canes, Santa, an elf, or the Grinch—that you're just dying to show off? Or maybe you would just like to get into the holiday spirit by wearing "red & green" Christmas colors. If so, wear them to school on *Thursday, Dec. 22nd* for "Christmas Dress Day". Help us add to the merriment of our special half-day of Christmas activities! Plan now to participate in our Merry Christmas Dress Day fun!

ALL-SCHOOL PARTY. . . The St. Paul Lutheran All-School Christmas Party will be held on *Thursday, Dec. 22nd* hosted by our 3rd graders & families. Following the party, school will be dismissed early at 11:45 AM that day for Christmas Vacation. Please make plans to pick up children by noon.



STUDENT GIFT EXCHANGE. . . Our tradition at St. Paul is to have students exchange small Christmas gifts with each other during the All-School Christmas Party on Dec. 22nd. Students exchanged names last week and brought home a sheet with the name of their special



"gifting" friend with details about purchasing the gift. Grades 3-8 have their "Wish Lists" on their lockers; Grades K-2 lists are posted on the entryway bulletin board. Gifts should be brought to the classrooms on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Dec. 19-21. Questions? Contact the school office.



CHAPEL OFFERING PROJECT

During December, our weekly chapel offerings will go to support *Lutheran Braille Workers*. This important ministry provides Gospel-centered materials for individuals who are visually impaired. What an incredible opportunity to share God's Word about our Savior Jesus with people! To date, we've collected \$203.75 for the project. Please remember your chapel offerings every Wednesday in December in support of the Lutheran Braille Workers.



EASY FUND RAISERS.

. . . Keep saving those Coke Rewards *bottle caps* and "Sip & Scan" product codes, General Mills "Box Tops for Education", and Dairy Queen "DQ Tear 2 Care" coupon for St. Paul Lutheran. Collectible items can be brought to the school office each week. Your yearlong support of our "Easy Fund Raisers" is greatly appreciated!



HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

. . . As the hustle and bustle of the season seems to consume our days, let us ever be mindful of the *TRUE REASON FOR THE SEASON*, namely the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas.

I'm glad you're part of the St. Paul Lutheran school family this Advent season. If I can be of any service to you this month, feel free to stop by my office or call for an appointment. Stay safe and healthy this 3rd Week of Advent!



Your partner in Christ,
James L. House, Principal