

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Serbin, Texas



Rev. John Schmidt, Pastor
Kelsey Schatte, Principal

Church 366-9650
School 366-9650 ECC 366-9650
Rev. S. 716-7632

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

The First Sunday after Christmas

28 December 2025

Welcome! The Holy Innocents, Martyrs. "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children" (Jer. 31:15). Herod rages and sends to kill all boys two years and younger (Matt. 2:16), desperate to destroy the newborn King of kings. The Church remembers these innocent victims as martyrs. They died for the One who came to die for them. This dark commemoration bears witness to the cruelty of sinful men and the world's hatred of Christ, who has sanctified our fragile life even from His conception and birth. But the boy who escaped Bethlehem's bloody streets unscathed went on to face thorns, nails and spear for them and for us. He is the Lamb whose name is written with the Father's name on the foreheads of His baptized saints (Rev. 14:1). By His death, He has redeemed an inheritance for Himself and brought peace at last by His blood. On the fourth day of Christmas, we sing "a new song" of the Lamb, of Christ the true martyr, whose death testifies that our redemption is won. We "follow the Lamb wherever he goes" (Rev. 14:3, 4), for He will bring our tears to an end. We invite you all to worship with us again.

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)
Ken Gage-hospitalized (father of Patrice Caster)
Herbert Handrick (uncle of Shannon Handrick)
David Hempel-recovering
Roselie Johnson-recovering (mother of Carie Oltmann)
Nancy Kasper-recovering
Billy Krause-recovering
Hildegard Krause-recovering
Mary Ann McCombs-recovering
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-hospitalized

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

Those who mourn:

The family of Elaine Peters-recovering (friend of Kyle Jenke)

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: 387, 389, 781 v. 1&2, 384, 725

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:13-23

The Sermon: **“Things Aren’t Always as They Seem”**

- ✝ **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Gertrude Fischer by her family
- ✝ **The Altar Stand and Side Stand flowers** are placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Theresa M. Krause by her family.
- ✝ **The Altar flowers** on Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st are being placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Theresa M. Krause by her family.
- ✝ **Thank you** to everyone for the cards and gifts this Christmas season. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.
Pastor & Lisa
- ✝ **January Calendar.** The January Calendar is available from the ushers this morning and in the church office.
- ✝ **Pictorial Directory.** The Pictorial Directories have arrived. If you had your picture taken or submitted for the directory you may pick one up in the church office. One per household. Please mark your name off the Pictorial Directory list.
- ✝ **Thank you** to all who purchased poinsettias and the ladies of the LWML for beautifying the sanctuary by arranging the Poinsettias. If you would like, you may leave your poinsettias in the Church until January 1, 2026.
- ✝ **Annual Report.** Reports from various committees and organizations for our congregation’s annual report are asked to be completed and turned in to the church office by Monday, February 2nd.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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. This is a gift that will enrich your lives now and in the future!

LUTHERAN HOUR: Next Sunday, January 4th, **“Knowing and Being Known in a New Year”**. Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved. John 17:3. 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 28 – Holy Innocents

The devil hates little children because he hates the Christ child, who was promised to crush his head (Genesis 3:15). Sadly, his influence can still be seen today in those who, like Herod, see little children as a threat to their authority and aim for their destruction (Matthew 2:16). As we weep with Rachel and her children (Jeremiah 31:15), we also rejoice that by sparing His only-begotten Son from Herod’s wrath, God has provided eternal salvation for all the holy innocents—past, present and future—that they too might join in the heavenly song around the throne of God (Revelation 14:3).

THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Today **Worship Service – 8:30 a.m.**
Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School Teachers Meeting – 10:15 a.m.

Mon - Fri **No School-Christmas Vacation**

Wed -Thurs **ECC Closed**

Wednesday **New Year's Eve Worship Service – 7:00 p.m.**
Acolytes: Lucy Gurka and Madilyn Kalbas
Greeter: Dianna Noack

Thursday **New Year's Day Worship Service w/Communion–
9:00 a.m.**
Acolytes: Emmalynn Knott and James Miertschin
Greeter: Janet Oltmann

Next Sunday **Worship Service w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.**
Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Acolytes: Whitlee Smolik and Max Sommerfield
Greeter: Pam Krause
Install Congregational Officers

Birthdays: Today – Marcia Wenke; 29th – Kevin Kunkel; 30th – Allen Perry; 1st – Casey Jacobs;
3rd – Hudson Short. God's Blessings to you.

ST. PAUL NOTES:

Attendance Last Week: Midweek Advent (12/17/2025)- 205, Morning Worship- 229, Communion- 114;
Sunday School- 14, Offering- \$39.00.

Offering Last Week: \$72,890.65

Home:		Mission:	
General	\$53,203.00	Mission	\$249.75
Advent 12/17/25	\$2,033.00	Mission Total	\$249.75
Sunday School	\$39.00	Savings/Other:	
Lunch Room	\$1,049.00	Savings/Other Total	
ECC Operating	\$7,225.00		
Tuition	\$9,091.90	Total	\$72,890.65
Received 12/21/2025	\$72,640.90		

Est. needed per week **\$31,870.00**
Received MTD **\$148,422.72**
Est. needed per month **\$138,103.00**

MEMORIALS: General: in memory of Melissa Lehmann, Melvin & Dorothy Schautschick and Ruth Faske by Jerry & Karen Faske - \$500.00. **Faith Lutheran High School:** For Faculty by M/M Delvin Boriack - \$50.00

Serving today: **Elders**– Mike Krause and Tim Weise
Organist- Susan Michael
Acolytes- Nathen Barnett and Max Faske
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
John Hinze, Philip Tharp, Chase Oltmann
