

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

Serbin, Texas



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

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**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

**19 January 2025**

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**Sanctity of Life Sunday**

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**Welcome! *The Divine Glory Is Manifested in the Signs of Christ.***

When Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana, it was “the first of his signs” by which He “manifested his glory” (John 2:11). It pointed to His coming “hour,” when He was lifted up on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and the life of the world (John 2:4; 12:23–32). The glory of the cross is incomprehensible apart from the Word and Spirit of God, but disciples of Jesus recognize that glory in the signs of His Gospel, and so they believe in Him. Jesus does not wait for His disciples to discover Him on their own, but He seeks out the forsaken and the desolate and unites them to Himself. He adorns them with His own beautiful righteousness and delights in them “as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride” (Is. 62:4–5). Purified by the washing of water with His Word in Holy Baptism, His disciples confess that “Jesus is Lord,” and they return thanks to Him “in the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:3) as they drink the good wine that He pours out for them, which is the new testament in His blood. We invite you all to worship with us again.

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**In Our Prayers:**

Those recovering from surgeries and illness:

*PJ Albrecht (nephew of Willard Albrecht and Milton Albrecht)*

*Chris Birnbaum-recovering*

*Delvin Boriack-recovering*

*Herbert Handrick (uncle of Shannon Handrick)*

*Roselie Johnson-recovering (mother of Carie Oltmann)*

*Billy Krause-recovering*

*Vic Lohberg-medical testing*

*Mike Maass-recovering*

*Charles Malke-recovering (brother of Carol Jean Noack and Douglas Malke)*

*Douglas Malke-recovering*

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

*Chris Miertschin-recovering*

*Russell Richards-recovering*

*Zelda Richards-recovering*

*Lucille Schatte*

*Glenn Teinert-recovering*

*Mildred Wachsmann-recovering (Mother of Peggy Wachsmann)*

*Laverne Weiser-recovering*

*Wesley Yurk-recovering*

*Irene Zoch-recovering (mother of Donnie Zoch)*

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

**Those fighting cancer including:**

*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)*

*Brandon Cleland (brother of Sonya Schautschick)*

*Ginger Clifford (sister of Nancy Kasper)*

*Sherri Fritsche*

*Christie Hall (friend of Mark Arldt)*

*Dana Herzog (niece of Becky Wiese)*

*Franklin Hoffman (father of Maxine Bradshaw)*

*Devin Jackson (brother-in-law of Chris and Michelle Birnbaum)*

*Cheryl Jurk (friend of Stephen & Dorothy Schautschick)*

*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)*

*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)*

*Keith Muessel (brother of Chris Miertschin)*

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

*Carol Sander*

*Diane Sanders (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)*

*Karen Symm (sister of Michael Symm)*

*Courtney Wagner (cousin of Mark Gruetzner)*

*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*

*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*

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

*Benjamin Symm-Completed Basic Training*

**Seasonal Weather**

**Those affected by the fires in California**

**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 Insert

The Hymns: 593, 906, 849, 781 v. 1&2, 578, 412, 411, 861

Sermon Text: Psalm 27:1

The Sermon: **“Life Shines in Darkness”**

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

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

**Grace Kay Cooper**

Grace is the daughter of Aaron and Meghan Cooper.

Her Baptismal Sponsors are Rebecca Burgdorf, Trip Spivey, Ashley Spivey and Keri Schatte and her baptismal witnesses are Shane Mobley and Amber Mobley

- ✠ **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God in honor of Milton (18) and Geraldine (20) Albrecht’s birthdays by Jeff, Sharon and Sadie Claxton.
- ✠ The Altar Stand flowers are placed to the glory of God in honor of Grace Kay’s baptism by Larry & Rita Schatte.
- ✠ **Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ.** Thank you for your kindness and generosity. We couldn’t do it without donors like you. Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us make a difference for those in need. There are not enough words to properly thank you for your generosity toward those affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton. Because of generous donors like you I was able to send over \$4000 in gift cards to help many in need. May God continue to bless you all. *Nancy Beckcom, Trinity Lutheran Church Disaster Response*
- ✠ **Voters Meeting Minutes.** The minutes of the January Voters Meeting are included in the bulletin this morning.
- ✠ **Year End Contribution Statements** are available from the finance Co-Chairmen this morning. Please review your statement and if there are any errors, let the finance Co-Chairmen (Glen Albrecht or Mason Becker) know, or call the church office.
- ✠ **South Lee County Volunteer Fire Department:** The annual membership meeting and election of officers of the South Lee County Volunteer Fire Department is this evening at the fire station in Northrup. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Meeting at 6:00 p.m. All area residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments and a chili supper will be provided.
- ✠ **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 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- ✠ **The Serbin LWML** invites any confirmed women wishing to participate with any Lutheran Women in Mission events and activities. Please text or call Melodi Oltmann at 979-540-0039 for more information. We have big plans and ideas for 2025! No obligation for membership or monthly meetings is required - just having fun serving the Lord!
- ✠ **PTLS Chili Supper & Live Auction:** The Annual Chili Supper & Live Auction is scheduled for **Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** at the Serbin Picnic Grounds. Cook-Off judging & Silent Auction (4pm), Live Auction (5:30pm), Chili/Hot Dog Supper (5-7pm). Tickets: Chili \$7, 2 Hot Dogs \$7. All School & ECC children are selling tickets until January 22<sup>nd</sup>, or you can purchase by calling the school office. **Come out for some Food, Fun, and Fellowship while supporting our PTLS!**
- ✠ Attention Chili Cookers! Enter your family recipe for a chance to win at our **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off!** \$25 entry fee. Prizes awarded. Deadline to register is January 31, 2025. Please contact Kristy Hentschel (979)220-9474 for details and registration.
- ✠ **PTLS** is also needing meat donations for this year’s Chili Supper. If you or someone you know would like to donate, please contact the church office, school office or contact Kristy Hentschel at (979)220-9474.
- ✠ **Texas Lutheran Writers Round Up:** Mark your calendars for the annual Texas Lutheran Writers Round Up at Faith Lutheran High School on Friday, January 31. Joining us this year are authors Sarah Baughman, Christina Hergenrader, Ruth Meyer, Texas District President Rev. Michael Newman, Martha Van Buskirk, and Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller. Please note that this event is not just for writers. The authors are the presenters, but it’s open to anyone and everyone! Check the bulletin in future weeks for more details. This is an event you won’t want to miss!

- ✠ **The Wendish Society** will have its annual Scholarship Fundraiser Drive-Thru meal on Sunday, January 26th at the Serbin Picnic Grounds. This year the menu will again be grilled pork steaks. Noodles, corn, green beans and pickles along with a bowl of Wendish Bird Wedding Soup. The cost is \$15. Pre-sale only by Tuesday, January 21st. Advance tickets may be reserved by calling the museum at 979-366-2441 or emailing [Museum@TexasWendish.org](mailto:Museum@TexasWendish.org). Tickets may be purchased from a museum staff member. Drive thru/to-go only. Pick up 10:00 am-12:30pm at the Serbin Picnic Grounds. Proceeds benefit the TWHS Scholarship Program. In 2024 there were twenty-four Texas Wendish Heritage Scholarship recipients totaling \$21,000 being awarded! We thank you for supporting our Wendish students!
- ✠ **St. Paul Serbin** will have an opening in its faculty for the 2025-2026 academic year for 3rd grade. Interested individuals who teach any subject area are encouraged to apply! Applicants may submit resumes to St. Paul Lutheran School: ATTN Kelsey Schatte 1578 County Road 211 Giddings, Texas 78942, or email them to [kschatte@stpaulserbinschool.org](mailto:kschatte@stpaulserbinschool.org). Please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. All resumes are due January 31st; interviews will be conducted after this date. Thank you!

**LUTHERAN HOUR:** Next Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, “**An Overture to the Greatest Story Ever Told**”. Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez. Like an overture that introduces a great musical work, John the Baptizer is the living voice sent by God to bear witness to Jesus’ lordship and salvation. (John 3:26-26). 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.

### THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Today	<b>Worship Service w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.</b> Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Scholarship Committee Meeting – 10:15 a.m. SLCVFD Annual Meeting
Monday	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>No School</b>
Tuesday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.
Wednesday	School Chapel – 8:30 a.m. Youth Confirmation – 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Staff Bible Study – 7:30 a.m. Board of Elders Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Friday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.
Next Sunday	<b>Worship Service – 8:30 a.m.</b> Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Acolytes: Jagger Garner and Lane Gersch Greeter: Deanna Miertschin Sunday School Teachers Meeting – 10:15 a.m.

**Birthdays:** Today – Nicole Birnbaum, Jarrett Bise, Christopher Taylor, Alton Weiser; 20<sup>th</sup> – Geraldine Albrecht, Michael Symm; 21<sup>st</sup> – George Hernandez; 22<sup>nd</sup> – Olivia Habel; 23<sup>rd</sup> – Clayton Kalbas, Donnie Krause, Maison Schautschick, Emma Short, Tina Sommerfield; 24<sup>th</sup> – Shannon Handrick, Corie Schimank, Savannah Weiser; 25<sup>th</sup> – Shawn Bigon, Ashley Hinze. God’s Blessings to you.

### Life Through the Church Year:

#### Epiphany II

Surprise pregnancies sometimes seem like tidal waves. Terminal diagnoses also often come like thunderstorms. But even among their sufferings, the Lord Jesus exercises ultimate authority and never fails to make wine for us out of water. The gifts He delivers through each neighbor differ, but the same Spirit works (1 Corinthians 12:4-6) the sanctity of life in them all.

**ST. PAUL NOTES:**

**Attendance Last Week:** Morning Worship- 269, Bible Class- 26; Sunday School- 40, Banner Classes: Grade 5, Offering- \$17.00.

**Offering Last Week:** \$26,506.56

<b>Home:</b>		<b>Mission:</b>	
General	\$6,859.06	Mission	\$315.00
Sunday School	\$17.00	<b>Mission Total</b>	<b>\$315.00</b>
Lunch Room	\$1,380.00	<b>Savings/Other:</b>	
ECC Operating	\$6,401.00	Tuition Assistance Fund	\$1,190.00
School Registration	\$325.00	Endowment Fund	\$200.00
Tuition	\$9,719.50	Scholarship	\$100.00
<b>Received 1/12/2025</b>	<b>\$24,701.56</b>	<b>Savings/Other Total</b>	<b>\$1,490.00</b>
<b>Est. needed per week</b>	<b>\$29,635.00</b>	Total	\$26,506.56
<b>Received MTD</b>	<b>\$63,184.81</b>		
<b>Est. needed per month</b>	<b>\$128,417.00</b>		

**MEMORIALS: ECC Operating:** In memory of Jasmine Bailey by Janiece Becker - \$50.00. **Faith Lutheran High School:** In memory of Carter Biehle by M/M Delvin Boriack - \$20.00. **Tuition Assistance Fund:** In memory of Jasmine Bailey by Craig & Melodi Oltmann & boys - \$100.00; by Paul & Tina Sommerfield, Max & Macy - \$50.00; by Jack & Marian Wiederhold - \$50.00; by Kyle, Laurie & Kaden Kasper - \$50.00; by M/M Ryan Hentschel & family - \$50.00; by M/M Luke Adair & family - \$50.00; by M/M Curtis Oltmann & family - \$100.00; by M/M Douglas Thielemann - \$50.00; by David & Karen Schmidt - \$25.00; by M/M Joseph Kalbas & family - \$50.00; by James & Kathy Kalbas - \$100.00; by Beatrice & Terry Flippo & family - \$40.00; by Steve & Ladonna Jatzlau - \$75.00; by Richard & Doris Ford - \$50.00; by Raymond & Lanetta Kipp - \$25.00; by Ernie & Leslie Wright - \$50.00 by John & Eunice Siegmund - \$25.00; by Ronnie & Lisa Petzold - \$100.00; by Debbie & Ralph Domel - \$50.00.

**Serving today:** **Elders**– Douglas Hartfield and Michael Krause  
**Organist**- Daniel Krause  
**Acolytes**- Everett Corn and Addyson Early  
**Head Ushers**- Donald Becker  
**Captain**- Michael Becker **Assistant**- Glen Albrecht  
**Ushers**- Wyatt Arldt, Gabriel Bailey, Virgil Becker,  
Jace Heuermann, Clay Mertink, Cody Mertink,  
Cole Mertink, Owen Wittman, Robert Zoch  
**Counting and Posting offering this week:**  
**Chairman**- Glen Albrecht  
Payton Oltmann, Tommy Miertschin, Cole Mertink  
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### **New Student Registration**

Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to Friday, March 7, 2025 will only pay \$100 in registration fees. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org).

### **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.

### **Athletic Schedule**

This week's schedule includes:

- Tuesday, January 21st, 6:30 pm at Immanuel Lutheran School. Basketball game vs. Valor Kyle
- Friday, January 24th, 4pm at Fayetteville. Basketball game vs. Fayetteville.

You can visit our website to see all our athletic schedules. Come cheer on our Falcons!

### **Texas Lutheran Writer's Round Up**

FLHS is excited to host our 6th annual Texas Lutheran Writer's Round Up on Friday, January 31st. The fun begins at 9 am. See our flier for the Round Up to see the full list of opportunities during the event. We are blessed to offer this event to our community, so please plan to join us!

### **Accreditation Survey**

FLHS is currently working through the NLSA re-Accreditation process. As part of this process, we are conducting a survey from all supporters to evaluate how we are doing, and in what areas we could continue to grow. We would appreciate your participation in the survey. It can be found on our website, Facebook page, or scan the QR code. Thank you for your feedback as FLHS continues to grow our ministry!



### **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!