

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 after the Epiphany

22 January 2023

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Welcome! *The Lord Manifests His Glory through His Office of the Holy Ministry.* By His coming in the flesh and by His preaching and miracles, the Lord Jesus shines the light of His Gospel upon “the people who walked in darkness” and “who dwelt in a land of deep darkness” (Is. 9:2). He also has “multiplied the nation” and “increased its joy” (Is. 9:3) by calling disciples to Himself from the ends of the earth. For this purpose, He calls Peter and Andrew, with James and John, to follow Him and be “fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). As Jesus did, they also go forth “proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people” (Matt. 4:23). They preach the foolishness of the cross of Christ as the very power and wisdom of God. This word and preaching of the cross divides “those who are perishing” from “us who are being saved” (1 Cor. 1:18), but it unites the Church, the one Body of Christ, “in the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10).

We invite you all to worship with us again.

In Our Prayers:

Those recovering from surgeries and illness:

Gladys Arldt-recovering
Cynthia Boriack-recovering (mother of Antoinette Richardson)
Irene Hempel
Leroy Kalbas-recovering
Chris Miertschin
Shannon Miertschin
Carol Jean Noack-recovering
Keeley Schautschick-recovering
Greg Sorrento-recovering (nephew of Doris Fritsche)
Cindy Umphries-recovering (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)
Ruby Weiser-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)
Ruby Maass (Mother of Linda Schonhoeft)
Gladys Mathena (sister of Frances Miertschin and Marilyn Miertschin)
Rhonda Mitschke (friend of Christi Fritsche)
Carol Sander
Diane Sanders (friend of James & Kathy Kalbas)
Arthur Urban
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 Bliss, El Paso
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
Peyton Walker (son of Heather Mersiovsky) Ft. Benning, Georgia
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— Page 184 of the hymnal

The Hymns: 930, 814, 904, 765, 781 v. 1&2, 719

Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

The Sermon: **“Choose Life: Be A Blessed Blessing For Others”**

- † **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God in memory of Alice Luedke by the Mitschke family.
- † **The Altar Stand Flowers** are placed to the glory of God in honor of Jarrett Bise on his birthday by Stephanie, Jace and Levi Bise and Billy & Theresa Krause.
- † **Year End Contribution Statements** are available from the finance Co-Chairmen this morning. You can also pick them up in the church office during the week. Please review your statement and if there are any errors, contact the church office.
- † **Stew Luncheon Fundraiser for our 7th & 8th Graders going to Washington DC:** Sunday, February 5th at First National Bank Drive-Thru from 10:00-noon. \$12.00 a ticket which includes a cup of stew, cornbread, & drink. Tickets can be purchased after church today or next Sunday or by calling/texting Laurie Kasper at 979-540-9073. **We thank you in advance for supporting OUR CHILDREN!**
- † **Wood Cutters for Picnic.** We will be cutting and hauling wood for the picnic on Saturday, February 4th. For more information or just to let us know that you will be there, please call Russell @ 979-540-0741 or Troy @ 979-412-0341. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated.
- † **Sunday School Teachers.** We are in need of 3 new Sunday School Teachers. If you are interested, please contact Pastor or Mike Symm
- † **Help Wanted.** Consider being a volunteer at the Immanuel PSIA competition on March 24. You can assist in grading papers, etc. Please contact Mrs. Bradshaw by February 13th at 979-716-0163.
- † **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.
- † **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 January 23rd.
- † **2023 Offering Envelopes.** There are still some 2023 offering envelopes in the church office meeting room. If you have not picked up your 2023 envelopes, please do so.

LUTHERAN HOUR: Next Sunday, January 29th, **“Hopelessly Hopeful”**. Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Having hope for humanity is not the same thing as hoping in humanity. (Colossians 1:27). 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.

Serving today: **Elders**— Mark Jones and Steven Schautschick
Organist- Susan Michael
Acolytes- Owen Wittman and Gabriel Bailey
Head Ushers- Donald Becker
Captain- Mason Becker **Assistant**- Carson Becker
Ushers- Jason Becker, Randy Becker, Brandon Burgdorf,
Trey Fritsche, Mike Krause, Ethan Miertschin,
Rex Perry, Brad Schmidt, Tim Symm, John Tate
Counting and Posting offering this week:
Chairman- Rex Perry
John Hinze, Bradley Albrecht, Troy Wiederhold

THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

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

Monday Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday Staff Bible Study – 7:30 a.m.
 School Chapel – 8:30 a.m.
 Vogelhochzeit Pacti kwas “Bird Wedding”
 Assembly – 10:30 a.m.

Thursday 4-H Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
 Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.
 Board of Elder’s Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Friday Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m.

Next Sunday **Song Service – 8:30 a.m.**
 Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
 Acolytes: Tyler Fritsche and Lydia Goodson
 Greeter: Lisa Schmidt
 PTLS Meeting – 10:15 a.m.

Birthdays: Today – Olivia Habel; 23rd – Clayton Kalbas, Donnie Krause, Maison Schautschick, Emma Short, Tina Sommerfield; 24th – Shannon Handrick, Corie Schimank, Savannah Weiser; 25th – Shawn Bigon; 26th – Brooks Kasper, Susan Michael, Benjamin Symm, Ruby Weiser, Levi Wiederhold; 27th – Gabriel Bailey, Robert Hinze, Arthur Noack; 28th – Susan Schatte. God’s Blessings to you.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year:

January 22 – Epiphany III

In the day of trouble, the people of Christ seek not the finger of death but the face of the Lord (Psalm 27:5,8). Though carrying surprise pregnancy may appear foolish, though enduring unto natural death may seem senseless, though advocating the sanctity of life may earn us ridicule, the word of the cross preserves us—and our neighbors—in the very power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).

ST. PAUL NOTES:

Attendance Last Week: Morning Worship- 259, Communion- 132, Bible Class- 22; Sunday School- 32, Banner Classes: Nursery I, Grade 5, Offering- \$17.50.

Offering Last Week: \$35,459.13

Home:		Mission:	
General	\$13,709.00	Mission	\$3,365.00
Sunday School	\$17.50	Mission Total	\$3,365.00
Lunch Room	\$2,130.00	Savings/Other:	
ECC Operating	\$5,895.03	School Fund	\$2,630.00
Use of Facility	\$1,500.00	Building Fund	\$20.00
Tuition	\$6,192.60	Savings/Other Total	\$2,650.00
Received 1/15/2023	\$29,444.13		
		Total	\$35,459.13
Est. needed per week	\$22,500.00		
Received MTD	\$70,652.84		
Est. needed per month	\$118,000.00		

MEMORIALS: School Fund: In memory of Herb Roeber by Phillip, Rose, Courtland & Libbi Tharp - \$80.00. In memory of Tamshaw Becker by Frances Miertschin - \$30.00; by Brian, Anna, James & Sara Miertschin - \$20.00.

† **Save the Date- VBS JUNE 12-16th!** During Rainforest Explorers VBS, we will learn how Jesus is our ultimate guide in our lives! **Volunteer for VBS-** Please contact Krista Rodriguez at 979-716-0143 if you would like to assist with VBS this Summer.



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.

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. One new student has already enrolled and we are looking to add more students to our family. Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to **Friday, March 10, 2023** 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.

We've Got SPIRIT, YES, we do!

FLHS has partnered with BSN Sports and is now offering an online spirit wear store - including clothes, tumblers, decals, and more, and it's all customizable. Use the code SPIRIT before February 15, 2023 and you will receive 25% off your total purchase. Please use the QR code shown or visit

<https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/texas/warda/faith-lutheran-high-school> to place an order.



Amazon Smile

Did you know Faith Lutheran High School is on Amazon Smile? After you select FLHS as the charity of your choice, everytime you purchase something from Amazon Smile, FLHS will receive a donation. Thank you! *This program is ending February 20, 2023, so please help us take advantage of this program before the opportunity expires.

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 ✠

for the week of January 23-29, 2023

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 23-27...Gospel Adventure Online
India Mission Trip
- Jan. 24...BB games vs. Caldwell
4:00/5:00/6:00 PM
- Jan. 25...School Chapel Service
8:30 AM
Bird Wedding Assembly
– 10:00 AM
- Jan. 26...BB Games @ Giddings
– 1:00/4:00/5:00 PM
- Jan. 27...Midterm 4th Six-Weeks
- Jan. 27-28...Immanuel-Giddings
JV Basketball Tournament
- Jan. 29...Gr. K-4 Sing at Worship
Service 8:30 AM
PTLS Meeting – 10:15 AM
- Jan. 31...100th Day of School
- Feb. 2...BB Games @ Bronham
4:00 & 5:00 PM
- Feb. 9...New Family Open House
– 8:30-10:30 AM and
4:30-6:30 PM

From the Principal's Desk. . .

We'll wrap up the month of January next week with two fun-filled activities:

- the annual *Gospel Adventure online mission trip* to India, Jan. 23-27. Be sure to ask your child to share their experiences with you!
- The “*Bird Wedding*” Assembly – Jan. 25 @ 10:00 AM

Mark your calendars for these two event next Sunday, Jan. 29th:

- *Grades K-4 sings* at Worship Service @ 8:30 AM
- January *PTLS Meeting* @ 10:15 AM in the church.

Have a blessed 3rd Week of Epiphany! – Jim House, Principal

NEWS, NOTES, and HAPPENINGS

GOSPEL ADVENTURES. . .Lutheran Hour Ministries wants to “fuel the enthusiasm” for evangelism and mission involvement among young people by providing opportunities for “hand-on” service and learning with Christians around the world. To this end, LHM is sponsoring *Gospel Adventures: Celebrate India—Shout for Joy to the Lord, all the Earth!*—an online mission trip by which our St. Paul students can connect with the people, culture, and ministry of that south Asian country. Next week Jan. 23-27, our students will be visiting the LHM website to view videos and chat online with LHM staff in India to have questions answered about ministry in that country. What a great way to learn more about another culture & how God’s Word is working in mighty ways to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. Watch for more information coming next week about the 2023 LHM “*Gospel Adventures: Celebrate India!*” Online Mission Trip.



BIRD’S WEDDING. . .The annual Vogelhochzeit Ptaci Kwas or “Bird’s Wedding” Assembly will be held on *Wednesday, Jan. 25th at 10:00 AM* in the St. Paul gym. Chelsea Beck from the Wendish Heritage Museum will talk to the students about this age-old Wendish tradition of children placing places of bird seed outdoors and waking up the next morning to find the places filled with candy and cookies. The sweets are supposedly left by birds that had just celebrated their marriage. We look forward to celebrating this special cultural event!



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.”

KIDS HEART CHALLENGE. . . Hey Voyagers! Have you signed up online to participate in the American Heart Association "Kids Heart Challenge"? We saw a great video and received information earlier this week encouraging your participation in the program. This year's challenge is "Jump Rope for Hearts". During regular Phys. Ed. classes during the next few weeks, we'll be doing a variety of jump rope activities to keep our hearts healthy and raise awareness of the importance of keeping heart healthy through exercise, diet, and development of healthy life styles. We'll also be learning the life-saving skill of CPR. It's not too late to register online and receive your KHCC bracelet. Then, start raising money for the American Heart Association and collect all the "Heart Heroes" for your clasp. To date, *14 students have registered to participate and we've raised over \$600 for the AHA.* Remember, the *deadline for obtaining pledges in this year's challenge is Monday, Feb. 10th.* We encourage every student to participate in the AHA Kids Heart Challenge.



K-4 SINGING. . . The students in Grades K- 4 will lift their voices in praise to our Lord by *singing at the 8:30 AM worship service next Sunday, January 29th (arrive in gym @ 8:15 AM).* Plan to join the students as we worship together.

PTLS MEETING. . . The St. Paul Parents & Teachers in Lutheran Schools (PTLS) will hold their January meeting *next Sunday, Jan. 29th at 10:15 AM* in the church. Our 5th & 6th grade families will serve as hosts. We'll finalizing plans for the Chili Supper and Auction on March 5th. Reports will also be shared on upcoming events. Watch the News Blast newsletter for an agenda of items to be discussed and decided. All families are encouraged to attend!



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE. . . We're planning a Community & New Family Open House on *Thursday, Feb. 9th from 8:30-10:30 AM and 4:30-6:30 PM* for new families who desire a Christian education and would like to learn more about our program of instruction at St. Paul Lutheran for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. *Help us get the word out today about the wonderful, life-changing Christian education offered at St. Paul Lutheran-Serbin by "liking and sharing" the flyer posted on the St. Paul Facebook page and school website.* Or better yet—if you know of a relative, friend, or co-worker interested in enrolling, please let us know—and more importantly, *invite them to attend* the Community & New Family Open House" on February 9th!



SPELLING BEE SUCCESS. . . Our St. Paul-Serbin spellers made a fine showing at last Friday's Concordia LHS Spelling Bee; taking *2nd Place overall.* Seven students made it to the "oral round"—Ryleigh Bailey, Aliya Ehler, Hudson Short, Cooper Hinze, Gabriel Bailey, and Grant Otmann. Then, the following students won ribbons: *Hudson Short - 1st Place, Cooper Hinze-2nd place, Gabriel Bailey-2nd place, and Kennedy Schatte-1st place.* Congratulations to all our spellers—y'all did a great job!



CHAPEL OFFERING PROJECT

Our chapel offerings in January will continue our support of the *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 \$400.25* for the project. Please remember your chapel offerings every Wednesday in January as we continue our support of the Lutheran Braille Workers.



SPECIAL CHAPEL OFFERING

Next Wednesday's chapel offering will go to support the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries and the "Celebrate India" project. Remember to use the LHM "Celebrate India" offering cube that you made in class as a remind to bring your offering next week!



BASKETBALL NEWS.

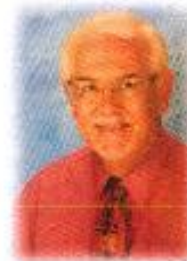
. . . Our Voyager Boys' & Girls' basketball season continues this week:

- 1/24 Home w. 1st Bapt-Caldwell
– JV Boys - 4 PM; Girls - 5 PM;
Var. Boys - 6 PM
- 1/26 Away at Immanuel-Giddings
– Var. Girls - 3 PM; JV Boys - 4 PM;
Var. Boys - 5 PM
- 1/27-28 – JV Boys @ Imm-Giddings
JV Tourney (games & times TBA)

Plan to come cheer for our teams throughout the remainder of the 2022-23 season. Go Voyagers!

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

. . . It's hard to believe, but the month of January is quickly coming to a close next week with lots of activities. 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