

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

Serbin, Texas



Rev. John Schmidt, Pastor  
Kelsey Schatte, Principal

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## The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

7 September 2025

**Welcome! Christ Jesus Has Paid the Cost of Discipleship for You.** A disciple of Jesus Christ will “bear his own cross” (Luke 14:27) and follow the Lord through death into life. Discipleship is costly because it crucifies the old man with “all that he has” (Luke 14:33), in order to raise up the new man in Christ. The disciple disavows “his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life” (Luke 14:26), in deference to Christ. That way of the cross is impossible, except that Christ Jesus has already paid the cost. His cross is set before you as “life and good, death and evil” (Deut. 30:15). Taking up His cross is to “choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him” (Deut. 30:19–20). To live that life in Christ is also to bear His cross in love, “that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord” (Philemon 14). We invite you all to worship with us again.

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### In Our Prayers:

Those recovering from surgeries and illness:

*Wayne Becker-recovering*

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

*Ginger Clifford-recovering (sister of Nancy Kasper)*

*Dorothy Exner-recovering*

*Herbert Handrick (uncle of Shannon Handrick)*

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

*Seth Kalbas-recovering*

*Ruth Kluetz-recovering*

*Billy Krause-recovering*

*Vic Lohberg*

*Ruby Maass-recovering (mother of Linda Schonhoeft)*

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

*Chris Miertschin-recovering*

*Naomi Mumm-recovering*

*Gene Namken-recovering (brother of Linda Oltmann)*

*Richard Schonhoeft-recovering*

*Barbara Schmidt-recovering*

*Camie Smiley-recovering (friend of Thomas Birnbaum)*

*David Wachsmann (cousin of Billy Krause)*

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

**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)*

*Sherri Fritsche*

*Christie Hall (friend of Mark Arldt)*

*Dana Herzog (niece of Becky Weise)*

*Franklin Hoffman (father of Maxine Bradshaw)*

*Betty Jenkins (mother of Jared Jenkins)*

*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)*

*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)*

*Valerie Namken (sister-in-law of Linda Oltmann)*

*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*

*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*

*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 Dorothy 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*

**Those who mourn:** *The family of Samuel Dittmar (nephew or Joshua and Jennifer Smith)*

**Seasonal Weather**

**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: 918, 797, 781 v. 1&2, 851, 427, 784, 791

Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Sermon: **“If....Then”**

- ✝ **The Altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God.
- ✝ **Altar flowers** are needed for Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to place flowers on that Sunday, please call Dorothy Schautschick at 716-0094.
- ✝ **Thank You.** The residents of Sandy Creek and Liberty Hill who were affected by the July flooding were very appreciative of the gift cards, prayers, and words of encouragement. Thank you for your generosity.
- ✝ **Special Voters Meeting.** There is a Special Voters Meeting after the Service this morning to approve the Concordia Plan rates for 2026.
- ✝ **Adult Instruction Class.** Pastor Schmidt is beginning an Adult Instruction class this morning. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested in taking the class, please call Pastor Schmidt or the church office.
- ✝ **Sunday School Help.** We are looking for Sunday School Teachers for grades 1 & 2, grades 3 & 4, and a helper for kindergarten. Please consider donating your time and talents in service to the Lord and join our Sunday School team.
- ✝ **Fried Chicken Dinner:** The St. Paul Lutheran Church Adult Fellowship in Serbin are having their 28<sup>th</sup> annual fried chicken dinner on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 at the Serbin Picnic Grounds. Preorders are preferred and all to-go plates will be sold for \$15.00. If you would like to order plates please contact Susan Michael at 540-0854 or Sharon Claxton at 540-7154 by TOMORROW. All proceeds will be going toward future church/school projects. Thank You!
- ✝ **Aluminum Cans:** Need somewhere to take your aluminum cans? There is a drop-off trailer by the pasture gate for anyone who would like to drop off their aluminum cans to be recycled. All money raised from the recycled cans will go to the Building Fund. We sold the cans this past week and raised another \$81.25. for the Building Fund. Total given to the Restoration/Building fund is \$4,424.60.
- ✝ **Young Adult Conference – October 3–5.** Join us for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and learning as we explore how Lutheran theology brings clarity and peace in a chaotic world. Designed for young adults (ages 18–35), the conference will include sessions on evangelism, cultural engagement, and bold Christian living, along with worship services and Q&A with Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller. Cost is \$10 – register online now! <https://splcaustin.regfox.com/christian-comfort-in-a-chaotic-cosmos>
- ✝ **WENDISH FEST:** The 37th Annual Wendish Fest will be hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Texas Wendish Heritage Society on Sunday, September 28, 2025 in Serbin, Texas. Guest speakers for the 8:30 English Church Service and the 10:30 German Church Service will be Pastor Roland Ziegler, Pastor John Schmidt, St. Paul Serbin (English Liturgy), and Pastor Christopher Ahlman (German Liturgy). Church tours will be offered at 12:30 & 1:30p.m. The day will offer lots of Wendish history, heritage, culture and family activities at the St. Paul Picnic Grounds. Tickets for the traditional Wendish noon meal will go on sale at 10:30 a.m. Adults are \$15 and children \$6. To-Go and drive-thru will also be available at 9:30 – all take-out meals are \$15. The joy of polka music will be shared throughout the day by the Jodie Mikula Orchestra, and students of St. Paul Lutheran School will present Ptači Kwas (Wendish Bird Wedding). The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum Complex will feature Wendish folkways, demonstrations and exhibits, a German Christmas Market and the traditional decorated Wendish Easter Egg demonstrations and sales. Research and genealogy assistance will be available. Wendish Fest is made possible through the work of many volunteers. We appreciate each and every one! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the museum or Katy Kasper. For information contact 979-366-2441 or [museum@texaswendish.org](mailto:museum@texaswendish.org) or [www.texaswendish.org](http://www.texaswendish.org)
- ✝ **Wreaths Across America.** We will again be participating in National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 13, 2025. We have 100 Veterans that will have wreaths placed on their graves. Please consider sponsoring a wreath(s) in memory of or in honor of Veterans so that we can honor all our Veterans at Christmas. **Cost of a wreath is \$17.00.**

**LUTHERAN HOUR:** Next Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, **“It’s All on God; It’s All on Us”**. Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev Dr. Michael Zeigler. A paradox doesn’t make sense, mathematically. But it can be an accurate description of real-life experience. (Deuteronomy 1:31). 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:

#### September 7 – Pentecost XIII

Funny how the Almighty Maker invites (orders?) His people to choose life (Deuteronomy 30:19). By His creating, redeeming, and calling, life has already chosen us—and every single one of our neighbors—from fertilization to forever. Any dealings with death—like abortion and assisted suicide—diametrically oppose and dangerously depart from His express commandments.

### THE CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Today	<b>Worship Service w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.</b> Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Special Voters’ Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
Monday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m. JV Football game @ 4:00 pm @ Home
Tuesday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m. Circuit Meeting @ Mt. Calvery, La Grange – 9:00 a.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	School Chapel – 8:30 a.m. Youth Confirmation – 6:00 p.m. 4-H Meeting – 6:30 p.m. LWML Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Staff Bible Study – 7:30 a.m. DEV/JV/V Volleyball game in Smithville Rec Center @ 4:00/5:00/6:00 JV Football Game – 4:00 pm @ home
Friday	Staff Devotions – 7:30 a.m. School/ECC Picture Day
Next Sunday	<b>Worship Service – 8:30 a.m.</b> Bible Class and Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Acolytes: Nathen Barnett and Ryleigh Bailey Greeter: Dianna Noack LYF Meeting & Social – 2:00 p.m. LAF Fried Chicken Dinner

### ST. PAUL NOTES:

**Attendance Last Week:** Morning Worship- 236, Bible Class- 22; Sunday School- 24, Banner Classes: Grade 6, Offering- \$15.00.

**Offering Last Week:** \$14,344.75

Home:		Mission:	
General	\$10,155.20	Mission	\$1,055.80
Sunday School	\$15.00	<b>Mission Total</b>	<b>\$1,055.80</b>
Use of Facility	\$2,000.00	<b>Savings/Other:</b>	
ECC Operating	\$1,037.50		
<b>Received 8/31/2025</b>	<b>\$13,207.70</b>	Building Fund	\$81.25
		<b>Savings/Other Total</b>	<b>\$81.25</b>
<b>Est. needed per week</b>	<b>\$31,870.00</b>		
<b>Received MTD</b>	<b>\$165,211.76</b>	Total	\$14,344.75
<b>Est. needed per month</b>	<b>\$138,103.00</b>		

**MEMORIALS:** Texas Wendish Heritage Society: In memory of Richard Holt by Milton & Geraldine Albrecht - \$50.00

**Birthdays: Today** – Linda Jones; 8<sup>th</sup> – Michael Becker, Tammy Brooks; 9<sup>th</sup> – Trevor Rumuly; 10<sup>th</sup> – Jackie Handrick; 12<sup>th</sup> – Jared Jenkins; 13<sup>th</sup> – Rebecca Burgdorf, Kathy Lohberg, Anthony Schautschick. God's Blessings to you.

**Serving today: Elders**– Keith Oltmann and Tim Weise

**Organist**- Susan Michael

**Acolytes**- Dylan Arldt and Max Faske

**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**- Mason Becker

John Hinze, Philip Tharp, Chase Oltmann

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