



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1417 11th Street, P.O. Box 126  
Wichita Falls, TX 76307



St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Volume 3

February 2021

Issue 2

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**Pastor's Meditation**

***"Therefore Everyone Who Hears These Words Of Mine And Puts Them Into Practice Is Like A Wise Man Who Built His House On The Rock" (Matthew 7:24).***

President Ronald Reagan, in an address to the 1984 United States Olympic team, made this comment: "You above all people know that it is not just the will to win that counts, but the will to prepare to win." Wherever there is the potential for great gain, there is usually the necessity for equal or greater sacrifice. Those who have excelled in their professions understand the relationship between accomplishment and sacrifice. Many believers are unaware of the fact that this same principle applies in the spiritual realm as well. While we, in no way, play any role in our salvation or justification, we do cooperate with the Holy Spirit in our sanctified living.

Jesus chose to communicate this important truth in a parable. Two men decided to build houses. One decided to take the easy way. (I'm about to paraphrase here...) He built his house on a riverbank where the foundation would be easy to put in and materials were readily available. The other man chose the difficult task of hauling all his building supplies up to the top of the mountain. Once there, it took him days just to put in the foundation.

From the outset of the parable Jesus makes it clear who these

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Our Weekly Divine Service Schedule**

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class  
10:15 a.m. Divine Service  
(Holy Communion offered every Sunday)

**Divine Service**



## Pastor's Meditation Cont.,

two men represent. The first man represents that group of people who find the teachings of Christ too restrictive, too difficult to obey. The other builder represents those who are willing to pay the price of following Jesus (i.e. bearing the cross Mark 8:34; Matthew 10:38). They are the few who are willing to put into "practice" what Jesus taught.

For a while it looked as if the man on the mountain had worked extra hard for nothing. But then the clouds began to gather. And soon the wind began to blow. Before long both houses were being battered by the wind. It was then that the man on the mountain began to fully enjoy the benefits of his hard labor. At the same time, his friend down below was probably thinking, "If only I had...." But it was too late. And so it goes with those who cannot bring themselves to pay the price of cross bearing in order to follow Christ.

For many, freedom from sin involves pausing long enough to take the long look. What is it about Christ's teachings that you find too difficult to practice? No doubt you have the will to endure the storms of life. But willpower isn't enough. The real issue is, do you have the will **to prepare** for life's storms? Jesus was clear: faithfulness and suffering now ensures endurance later (Romans 5:3)! At Saint Paul we have invested the last 3 years of "preparation time" laying the foundation for enhanced ministry. It hasn't always been easy but nothing worth the sacrifice ever is.

I am extremely enthused and optimistic about 2021 after a disappointing setback in 2020 due to the COVID! Our mission and strategic planning is now aligning. Your pastor, leaders, and volunteers are "putting in the hard work NOW" to ensure that we can enjoy the fruit of our labor tomorrow. That said, it cannot be done without you! Your prayers, time, talent, finances, and encouraging optimistic speaking of St. Paul are all needed in abundance. Together, God has blessed us with an amazing ministry. And together we will commit to sacrifice and excellence to the glory of God. Come and help make a difference at St. Paul!

In Christ's love, +

Pastor Cody  
Psalm 84:10

## January 16, 2021 All Board and Committee Planning Meeting Takeaways & Goals

### Increase Bible Study and Worship Attendance

- A. Multi-generational Study...Bible Knowledge 101
- B. Weekly Divine Services with the Lord's Supper
- C. Advent & Lent noon & 7pm services
- D. Possible Seder Supper
- E. Continued 7pm & 11pm Christmas Eve Candlemas services

### Continue/Increase our Social Ministry Outreach/Presence in and to the community

- A. Faith Mission
- B. Rathgeber House
- C. Interfaith Ministries
- D. Give it Away
- E. Courtyard Gardens
- F. First Responders
- G. City Lights Parade

### Resume Fellowship Opportunities

- A. Valentine Gala
- B. Church Camp Out
- C. Confirmation Questioning invitation for entire congregation & reception/dinner
- D. Vacation Bible School
- E. North Campus worship/sing along
- F. Church meals and special occasion meals
- G. Card showers for all occasions and special birthdays and anniversaries

### Trustee/Maintenance/Building improvements

- A. Elevator improvements and repairs
- B. Windows replaced in the education wing and music room of the church
- C. Floor at Church Camp (cracking and buckling)  
Maintenance things that just come up

### Improved Communication to all members

- A. Following constitution for certain meetings, i.e. council meetings, voters' meetings, etc.
- B. Spread sheets showing who has what forms of communications (Cell phone, landline, email etc noting what preferred form of communication for members)
- C. Phone calls, emails, newsletters, minor prophet
- D. Attempt, if possible, to give at least a 2 week notice on any given changes

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

Join us for Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
At noon and 7:00 PM for the  
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Check out our website!  
[www.stpaulwftx.org](http://www.stpaulwftx.org)



— WICHITA FALLS —  
**FAITH MISSION**  
EVERY STORY MATTERS

Faith Mission is currently in need of the following items: Facemask, disposable gloves XL, Cleaning supplies, wipes, and Underwear all sizes

## Please Pray

### Prayers of God's People



#### FOR - THOSE WITH CANCER:

Jeanette Evans, Janie Khlum, Dennis Keethler, Lee Shores, Kay Castleberry, Guin Huneycutt, Dan Cullers, Chad Brown, Staci Myles, Sally Handrick, Yvette Groover, David Mitchell, David Marshall, Janice Hatcher, and Diane McCormick.

#### PHYSICAL AND OTHER CONCERNS:

Betty Corder, Brantley French, Duncan Hibbard, Ronnie Newman, Kellen Osborne, Mark Lehman, Tyler Sherrod, Ellen Fisher, Virginia Martinez, Jack Spence, Jesse Flick, David Baker, and Janice Wiechman.

Special Needs: Kyle Townes and unborn baby Townes.

HOMEBOUND/SHUT-IN MEMBERS: Dorothy Kutzler (Royal Estates), Virginia Hendricks (Rolling Meadows), Lois Kramer (Rolling Meadows), and Jesse Flick.

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL: Whitney Brown (Air Force), Eli Buckmaster (Marine Corps), Brian Clayton (Army), Kate Ridinger Dozier (Navy), Zachary Wied (National Guard), Jaydon Martinez (Navy), Trent Meisel (USAF), and Tim Rosenthal (USAF).

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

(Taken from <https://blogs.lcms.org>)

# Thank You

### **We wish to thank those who served last month:**

**Organists:** Kathy Schkade, Darla English

**Elders:** Kenneth Schkade, William Parker, Ben English, Kevin Copeland

**Sound man/PowerPoint:** Eugene Kruger

**Altar Guild:** Janna Buckmaster, Janice Wiechman setup) Vicki Holland, Lisa Schur (take-down)  
(And all members!)

**Greeters:** Nancy Martinez, Hank & Judy Hancock, Del Tech, Penny Becker, Leann Roten, Michelle Cody, Delores Palmatary, Ruth Rathgeber, Pam Marten, and all greeters.

**Ushers:** Randal Schoppa, Eugene Kruger, ...and all who volunteer on Sundays

**Church Sexton:** Randal Schoppa

**All Church Council members**

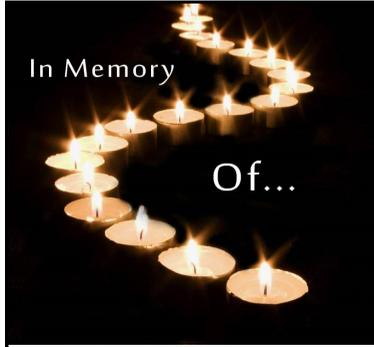
**All Board and Committee members**

**Treasurer:** Nina Keethler

**Parish Office Worker:** Lisa Schur

If you or someone you know needs a ride to Divine Service or any other church activity, please call the church office at (940) 322-6112 and we will see what we can do to arrange that for you.





## Memorials

In Memory of Randy Baird to St. Paul Lutheran Church by Ken & Kathy Schkade.

In Memory of Randy Baird to St. Paul Lutheran Church by Mark and Lynn Twietmeyer.

To the Altar Guild by Delores Palmatary in memory of:  
Zena Reonfeldt  
Lillie Barry  
Junnie Green  
Wanda Kilgo  
Claudia Kelley

The *St. Paul Epistle* is published monthly by:  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
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Kathy Schkade.....Organist  
Darla English.....Organist

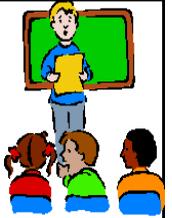
Lisa Schur.....Parish Office Worker

## Adult Education

The Adult Bible Class meets every Sunday morning before Divine Service. Our goal is to have 40 people in Adult Bible Study. We want to come together and study God's Word, and reap the benefits that God promises to those who remain in His Word (John 8:31-32). We begin a new topic on February 21 which will be a multi-generational study-Bible Knowledge 101. I think that you will find this class interesting and thought-provoking. Please plan on joining us each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



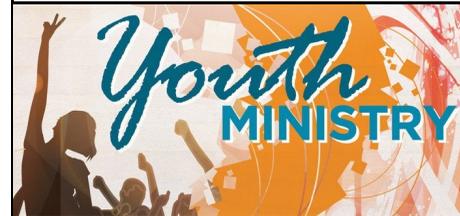
Because of the continued interest in the Adult Catechism Classes, Pastor Cody is teaching **Continuous Adult Catechism Instruction** to study together what it is that Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. This class meets weekly on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. Those wanting to become members of St. Paul can join the class at any time, and once through the series of lessons, they can be confirmed into communicant membership of the church. If you are interested in taking this class, please come out and join us! In those times when no one is there for new membership the group studies a book of the Bible or a specific topic.



**Sunday school for all ages starts at 9:00AM each Sunday morning.** The Scriptures are clear, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and **when he is old, he will not depart from it.**" (Prov. 22:6). Bring the kids out and stay for Adult Bible study yourselves and teach them the proper habit to be in as the spiritual leaders of your homes! See y'all there!

## Middle School Youth Catechism Class

We have young people that will be gathering together each week to demonstrate to their parents, and their Lord, the importance of this journey in their faith walk. Catechesis is the teaching of our Lord that is drawn from the Holy Scriptures, confessed in the Small Catechism, and expressed in Divine Service. Please pray for them as they study the Word of God and complete this important stage in their lives. The class is open to any and all from the 5th grade through the 8th grade. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m.



**LYF FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES**  
We would like to see if there are any Jr. high and/or any high school aged YOUTH that would be interested in getting together to discuss future activities that we could do to get our youth group started up again. If you are available for something like this, please contact Pastor Cody on his cell phone or by text 832-745-3314.



## Join us for this year's Lenten Series (Noon & 7PM) “Four Significant Days”

1. Ash Wednesday: Significant Problem—Last Day in the Garden, Genesis 3:19 (February 17, 2021)
2. Lenten Midweek 2: Significant Action—Monday of Holy Week, Mark 11:15–19 (Feb. 24, 2021)
3. Lenten Midweek 3: Significant Questions—Tuesday of Holy Week, Mark 12:28–37 (March 3, 2021)
4. Lenten Midweek 4: Significant Teaching—Tuesday of Holy Week, Matthew 23:1–12 (March 10, 2021)
5. Lenten Midweek 5: Significant Final Appearance—Tuesday of Holy Week, John 12:23–36 (March 17, 2021)

## God's People at Work during February

### Elders

William Parker  
Kenneth Schkade  
Kevin Copeland

### Ushers

Randal Schoppa  
Eugene Krueger  
Hank Hancock

### Altar Duty

Set Up: Janna Buckmaster  
& Janice Wiechman  
Take Down: Vicki Holland  
& Lisa Schur

### Greeters

Feb. 7– Hank & Judy Hancock  
Feb. 14– Kevin Copeland, Ruth  
Rathgeber  
Feb. 21– Del Tech, Penny Becker  
Feb. 28– Leanne Roten, Michelle Cody

### Readers

Feb. 7- Ken Schkade  
Feb. 14- Kevin Copeland  
Feb. 21 - Eugene Krueger  
Feb. 28- Kenny Theimer

# Days to Celebrate in February

## Birthdays

7th- Colbie Orsak  
8th Tracy Scarber  
16th Landon Anderson  
17th Abbey Anderson  
18th Terri Skinner  
20th Tyler Dozier, Jennifer Martinez  
21st Annie Smith  
24th Carol Myers, William Winter  
27th Owen Wuthrich



## Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Dennis & Dorren Hendricks  
8th Kenneth and Callie Theimer  
26th Matt & Katherine Dozier



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# ♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor, Michelle Cody
- ✦ Kathy (Organist) & Kenneth Schkade
- ✦ Darla (Organist) & Ben English
- ✦ Lisa Schur, Parish Office Worker
- ✦ All other staff members at St. Paul Lutheran Church
- ✦ The leadership of our church.
- ✦ The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church.
- ✦ All those sick or suffering in our church family.

## Valentine Gala

The Valentines Gala is currently in the planning stages.

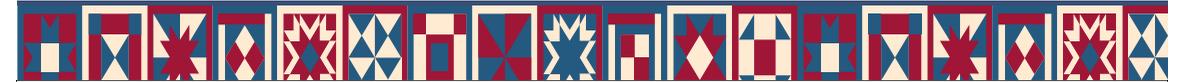
Check the Minor Prophet for more information.

### Quarterly Voter's Meeting Sunday, February 28

Our next quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held immediately following Divine Service on Sunday, February 28, in the Fellowship Hall.

The **LWML Ladies Group** will meet on Thursday, February 18, at 9:30AM. All ladies interested are very welcome to join them!

Our **Women's Bible Study** meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month of February at 9:30AM. They invite all women interested to come for some thought-provoking Bible study and great fellowship!



## NEWS FROM THE LWML/TABITHA JOY

### LWR Stamporee

The goal of the Lutheran World Relief Stamporee is to support LWR's Project Comfort, which provides funding for the shipping of goods to those in need around the world. All LWML societies are encouraged to collect and save cancelled postage stamps and send them to the district stamp chairman.

Here are a few pointers about saving stamps:

- Buy and use commemorative stamps, since they are worth more than common stamps.
- Save all cancelled stamps.
- Place stamps on envelope in the upper right hand corner, allowing 1/4 inch from each edge.
- Stamps need not be trimmed or removed from envelopes.
- IF trimming from envelopes, leave at least 1/4 inch around stamp. Sorting into categories or weighing is not necessary. Do not soak off!

During the 2016-2018 biennium, \$8670 was donated to the LWR Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund from the Stamporee.

Save your stamps and drop them off in the fellowship hall. There is a container for the stamps. Tabitha Joy/LWML will mail them to Sara Frank.

