



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

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



St. Paul Epistle

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God..."
1 John 4:7a

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

Volume 4

February 2022

Issue 2

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Pastor's Meditation

Dear Family in Christ,

Test me! Open your mouth wide and see if I won't fill it. You will receive every blessing you can use! (Ps.81:10 TLB).

This is an article I found by Merlin Carothers and really enjoyed it—thought I would share it with you like he suggests. Enjoy!

What incredible potential God has given us!

How long has it been since someone asked you if you are going to Heaven, or to attend church with them? If it has been a long time, there are many people just like you. It has been years since some folks have been approached by anyone showing concern for their eternal future.

Why are we so unconcerned, backward or afraid to speak about our faith? We can easily say, "How are you today?" but fail to ask really important questions. For some reason we often aren't being the witnesses for Christ that He asked us to be.

Many people who attend church, first did so because someone invited them! If we never invite people to our church is it because we are afraid? Do we feel incompetent or incapable of being a good witness for Christ and His Church?

In some countries anyone who tries to tell others about Jesus
(Continued on page 2)



Pastor's Meditation Cont.,

becomes a target for police investigation. Neighbors are asked, "Are they having an illegal church service in their home? Are they trying to indoctrinate their children about a religion that is not sponsored by the government?"

It is dangerous to talk about Jesus or the Bible in much of the world. Such people are called fanatics. Our enemy wants us to keep them – and us – quiet.

"Religion is a private thing. Don't bother other people. Don't offend anyone. Don't make people think you are trying to act holy." These are the kinds of thoughts our enemy tries to put into our minds.

We are often afraid even though we have almost nothing to be afraid of! We can weep over our failures, as Peter did, or we can let people know that we believe in Jesus. God's promise is still valid, Test me! Open your mouth wide and see if I won't fill it. Even if we do not know what we should say to people, when we open our mouths, we may be surprised at what the Holy Spirit will say through us! Joy comes to those who speak for the sake of Christ. You will receive every blessing you can use! What amazing promises God gives us!

We can be creative. When we hear, "How are you today?" we can say, "I'm happy because I have found a marvelous church. People there really love one another. Would you like to visit it?" And as this is the month we celebrate those we love and what better thing can we do for them than share the LOVE of Jesus with them.

If you are too afraid to speak, arm yourself with a tract and happily tell people how much you enjoyed it. Let's reach new people for Christ and God will reward every seed we plant as we know that His Word never returns empty! He will give us great joy in serving!

In Christ's love, +

Pastor Cody
Psalm 84:10

God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God's Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22), and again, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead" (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God's power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

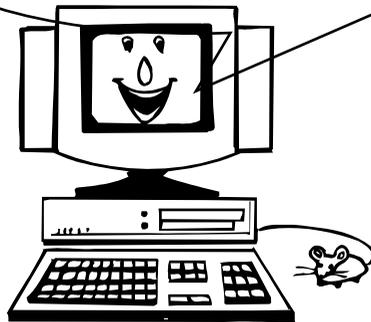
– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

**Monday Night Bible Study
is live-streamed on Pastor
Cody's personal Facebook
page.**



Faith Mission is currently in need of the following items: Kleenex, non-alcohol cough drops (individually wrapped), Toilet Paper, Razors, Travel size Bar Soap, Assorted sizes Ziplock bags, Deodorant, and women's undies-size 7, 8, & 9.

Check out our website!
www.stpaulwftx.org



Please Pray



Prayers of God's People

FOR - THOSE WITH CANCER:

Jeanette Evans, Janie Khlum, Dennis Keethler, Lee Shores, Kay Castleberry, Chad Brown, Staci Myles, Sally Handrick, Mike Groover, James Sheppard, Cash Cochran, Kent Streit, Rachel King, and Eric Axelson.

PHYSICAL AND OTHER CONCERNS:

Betty Corder, Brantley French, Duncan Hibbard, Ronnie Newman, Kellen Osborne, David Baker, Virginia Martinez, Dean Miller, Jesse Flick, Katey Lewis, Pastor Thomas Handrick, Jordan & Dustin Randall, Ben English, Jennifer Olsen, Townes Family, Drew Susac, Shelby & Sawyer Susac, Jordan Susac, Kathy Schkade, Nina Keethler, Pamela Diane Susac, Jim McGarvey, Janice Wiechman, William Parker, Heineken Family, Buckmaster Family, Pam Marten, Hank & Judy Hancock, Marcia Kubitz, and Penny Becker.

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

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

Sunday Collections

Just a reminder that we have three Sunday's a month that are designated for local charities and services. Your donation may be placed in an envelope with a note attached or a check with the memo designating which charity it is for.

The first Sunday is Interfaith Mission Collection— We collect food pantry items that are listed on their “needs list” as well as other pantry items and paper sacks. These items assist families in need of food.

The second Sunday is Rathgeber House Collection— The Rathgeber Hospitality House provides families and traveling employees with affordable housing and is located across the street from United Regional Health Care.

The third Sunday is Mite Collection— Lutheran Women in Mission use Mite boxes to used to collect money for missions. The money collected is divided between our Texas District LWML (75%) and the national LWML (25%). It is used to further God's kingdom through the mission grants selected by delegates at district and national conventions.

Thank You

We wish to thank those who served last month:

Organists: Darla English, Leo Tulagan

Elders: Kenneth Schkade, William Parker, Kevin Copeland, and Russell Heineken.

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, Lisa Schur, 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.



♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

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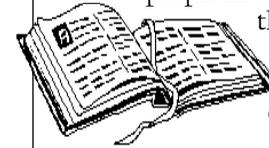
The Rev. Rick Cody Pastor
Cell Phone: 832-745-3314 †
Email: revcody11@gmail.com

Kathy Schkade.....Organist
Darla English.....Organist

Lisa Schur.....Parish Office Worker

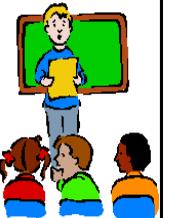
Adult Education

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 are currently studying One Hundred Bible Stories. 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.



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!

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.



We have a light dinner following Catechism class from 6-6:30 pm. We begin **Adult Bible study** at 6:30 pm to 8 pm. We are currently studying the book of Matthew.

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.

If your child needs a ride to Catechism instruction, we will be happy to provide that service to you. Please contact the church office and let us know. William Parker, Janice Wiechman and/or I will be picking the kids up and taking them home, if needed. Thank you!



Love your Chili Cookoff Fundraiser date has been changed-

We did not want to compete with Super Bowl Sunday, so we are moving this fun fellowship event to Sunday, Feb 20! The participants we need are you!

If you are willing to put an “entry” in the chili cookoff contest, please let Michelle, Darla, or Leann know by Sunday, Feb 13. We will purchase everyone 3 pounds of hamburger meat for use in their chili, to level the competition field, the other chili ingredients are up to you! (Beans? No beans?). We are planning a western theme, so feel free to dress for the occasion whether attending just to taste, or to decorate the spot your chili pot will be sitting. Feel free to creatively “name” your chili and make it fun! Prizes will be awarded!

Please also donate new items for the live auction, they can be homemade crafts, baked goods or other items. Begin bringing the items now until Friday, Feb 18. (Bake goods need to arrive the day of the event for freshness.)

Free will donations will be accepted for your Chili supper, and proceeds from that and the live auction will go toward the window fund for the educational wing window replacement.

People who are making chili need to have their chili in place and booth ready by 5 p.m. on Feb 20. Attendees need to arrive by 5:30 when judging, fellowship and eating will begin. Live auction interspersed with the activities.

Let’s LOVE our Chili Cookoff and make this a fun and festive event. Toppings, crackers, sides and desserts will be made available for those in attendance eating chili. Ya’ll come!

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. 6– Lisa Schur, Nancy Martinez
Feb. 13– Delores Palmatary, Ruth Rathgeber
Feb. 20– Hank & Judy Hancock
Feb. 27– Kevin Copeland, Ruth Rathgeber

Readers

Feb.6- Ken Schkade
Feb. 13- Kevin Copeland
Feb. 20- Eugene Krueger
Feb. 27- 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 & Doreen Hendricks
8th Kenneth & Callie Theimer
14th Cliff & Lori Susac
26th Matt & Katherine Dozier



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Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor, Michelle Cody
- ✦ Darla English, Leo Tulagan
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Church unity.
- ✦ Our nation and governmental leaders.

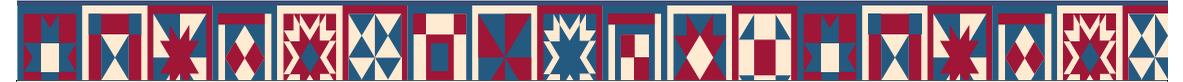
Quarterly Voter's Meeting Sunday, February 20

Our next quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held immediately following Divine Service on Sunday, February 20, in the Fellowship Hall.

The **LWML Ladies Group** will meet on Thursday, February 15, at 1:00PM. 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.

