



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

January 2020

Issue 1

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**Pastor's Meditation**

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church Family,  
Our Mission: ***"We are imperfect people risking it all to make Jesus real one life at a time."***  
The "Usuals"

It has been another very busy, but productive Advent and Christmas season. As I write this after a very busy 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, I find that there is now some time to just sit and reflect on all that God blessed us with this past year.

It was an amazing anniversary year in 2019! Everything went as planned and we had so many wonderful messages by our guest speakers, and we were blessed to have many family members and guests join us at St. Paul throughout the year. It was a great privilege to be here as your pastor to be able to lead you through all the festivities and to be able to share Jesus with you all year. Looking at St. Paul's storied past you can see God's guiding hand upon St. Paul and the members, and how richly this congregation has been blessed over the years.

Even among all the wonderful events of the past year, 2019 was also full of the "usuals." The usual plans. The usual rushing about. The usual short tempers and disappointments. There was also the usual joys. The usual family and congregational get-togethers. The awesome and worshipful worship services. The usual overabundance of food. The usual gifts. And the usual looking ahead to the New Year and a new decade. And we had a great planning session at the beginning of 2019 with the leadership of the congregation.

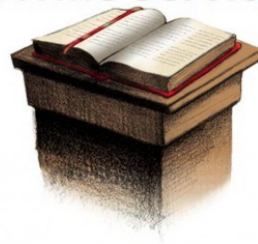
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**Our Weekly Divine Service Schedule**

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.,

But something UNusual happened at Christmas. That was the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. There is nothing "usual" about Him. There is His UNusual conception and UNusual birth. There is His UNusual life. His UNusual love, which we know better as grace. His UNusual obedience, which led Him to the cross. His UNusual death, in that Jesus didn't STAY dead. His UNusual Resurrection, for NO ONE had ever done anything like that before.

There is nothing "usual" about Jesus! That's why He's special to us and to all the believing world. I hope and pray that you had an UNusual Christmas. That you got past all the "usuals." That your family was able to escape the "usual" pressure and "usual" anxiety that the secular and commercial world demands. That all of you were able to focus on and grasp the only real thing worth having—the peace and assurance that only Jesus can impart.

This year in 2020, we are starting a new decade and with a new vision. We will be changing our focus from our personal 125<sup>th</sup> celebration to a more outreach focused plan. I would like the members of St. Paul to start thinking about new and fresh ways we can reach out with the unbelievable message of God's grace for those who believe!

We need to be thinking about our future and what God would have us do in the next 2-3 years...the next 5 years, and finally where we would like us to be in the next 10 years. I would encourage you, as the members, to discover what you can do with your time, what talents you can bring, and what gifts you can share to make St. Paul shine with the brightness of God's love.

As we begin 2020, my hope and prayer for our St. Paul family is that we may be UNusual in our approach to ministry. I pray that our mission statement above would be UNusually on your lips. If someone were to ask you, "What is St. Paul all about?" you would be able to answer—St. Paul is about PREACHING, TEACHING, and REACHING! I pray that this next year that your service to this congregation would be UNusual. I pray that your attendance at church and Bible study for you and your family would be UNusual. I pray that your financial support of the church would be UNusual. I pray that your commitment to the various ministries at the church would be UNusual. And I pray that our outreach to the community would be UNusual. God has not called us to be "usual" but UNusual!

May He bless us in all of our endeavors and may the Light of our Epiphany Lord Jesus be our guiding beacon in the months and years and decades to come...and in eternity! To Him be the glory forever!

In Christ's Love, +  
Pastor Cody  
Psalm 84:10

### Join us in Providing a Faithful and Robust Response to Disaster

In partnership with you and others across the Synod, LCMS Disaster Response has a decades-long legacy of changing lives with our Lord's mercy in the aftermath of disaster. Through the generosity of our LCMS congregations and families, you work with LCMS Disaster Response to carry out our Synod's response to people who are hurting, grieving and seeking hope. By God's grace, through resources and grants to districts, RSOs and other strategic partners, together we reach out to the hurting with Christ's love. Please, as the Lord has blessed you, will you provide a donation to strengthen our Synod's response efforts done in the name of Christ Jesus? We pledge to you that every gift provided in the wake of disaster will be used wisely to bring our Lord's compassion to those who need it most. Together, we will give people basic human needs and shower them with the mercy and hope found only in our Lord Jesus, who comes to us in His Word and Sacraments, and through compassionate, pastoral care.

Thank you. God bless you for the support He leads you to provide as you join our Synod's response as His baptized children.

*Sub cruce,*

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

To Make a Gift that Can Be Used for Disaster Relief Go to [lcms.org/givenow/disaster](https://lcms.org/givenow/disaster). Checks may be made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with "Disaster Response" written on the memo line. Donations can be sent to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Or call 888-930-4438

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Kathy Schkade.....Organist

Darla Inglish.....Organist

Lisa Schur ..... Parish Office Worker

I would like to offer a very special thank you to all who volunteered and represented the church during the Advent & Christmas seasons! All the events, meals, and many worship services around that time of the year can be exhausting, but you did your part and made it extra special! I hope that you will continue your strong leadership and volunteerism into the next year!

Pastor Cody  
Psalm 84:10



Faith Mission is currently in need of the following items: Cold and flu supplies, Feminine hygiene products, Large sized diapers (sizes 3 and up), Men and women's deodorant, Men and women's razors, and Copy paper.

Feel free to bring any items and leave them at the designated table in the Fellowship Hall. The staff greatly appreciate all of our donations.

The elementary youth want to thank the congregation for supporting the December pancake breakfast where \$149 was donated.

Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated. Darla English

## FUN AND GAMES

Our next fun and games date will be Sunday, January 5, at 4:00PM. Come out and join us for dominoes and cards. Bring your favorite snack to share and bring a friend along with you! See y'all there!



## Please Pray

### Prayers of God's People

#### FOR - THOSE WITH CANCER:

Jeanette Evans, Janie Khlum, Dennis Keethler, Virginia Martinez, Hank Roten, Lee Shores, Kay Castleberry, and Guin Huneycutt.

#### PHYSICAL AND OTHER CONCERNS:

Betty Corder, Brantley French, Duncan Hibbard, Claudia Kelley, Ronnie Newman, Kellen Osborne, Barbara Roten, Mark Lehman, Tyler Sherrod, Ellen Fisher and Randy Baird.

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

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



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



## Thank You!

Michelle and I would like to offer you all a very heartfelt thank you to the congregation for the generous Christmas gift that was given to us by the congregation this year. We are truly blessed to be here at St. Paul and look forward with much anticipation to see what God will do with us together as Pastor and people! Thank you again for thinking of us! We love you all!

Pastor & Michelle



## LYF JANUARY 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.



## Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome Kevin Copeland, Kyle Lucus, & Janet Lucus to our St. Paul Church family!

## Faith Mission

Please join us for our monthly worship service will be on Saturday, February 12, at 7:30PM. We'll be serving a quarterly meal next month! Stay tuned for more information coming your way!



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

# Thank You

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

**Organists:** Kathy Schkade, Darla English, Don Bruns

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

**Sound man/PowerPoint:** Ben English

**Altar Guild:** Claudia Kelley( setup) Leanne Roten, Michelle Cody (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:** Kathy Kabell

**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 Ruby Swartz to the Window Fund by Randal Schoppa.

In Memory of James Wiechman to St. Paul Lutheran Church by Terri Skinner.

In Honor of Ben & Darla English to St. Paul Lutheran Church by Bobby & Sandra Mitchell.

In Memory of Al Palmatary to the Window Fund by Randal Schoppa.

I would like to say thank you to all of you for the very generous and unexpected Christmas gift. I am blessed to work for such a wonderful congregation and look forward to the new year.

Happy New Year and Thank you!  
Lisa



This year, we were able to give Christmas presents to the residents at the Courtyard Gardens. With assistance from Thrivent, we provided sweat pants and tops for 51 residents.

Members participating in this project are: Pastor R. Cody, Ruth Rathgeber, Delores Palmatary, Penny Becker, Hank and Judy Hancock, and the Courtyard Garden's Administrator Beth Owen.

## 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 now studying the book of 1 Corinthians. 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 7:00 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.

### Midweek Bible School with Mrs. Schkade

There are several youth of our congregation that are meeting each Wednesday at 4:45PM-6:15PM. They study their Bibles and lessons and usually participate in a craft of some sort. There is always a snack served each week. Pastor Cody joins us with his guitar and leads some singing of favorite campfire songs. This is open to all in the 3rd through 5th grades! Hope to see y'all there!

Mrs. Schkade

## Thank You to those who Donated Poinsettias for the Altar

Hank & Judy Hancock in honor of: Kevin Copeland & Kyle Lucas on their confirmation

Deanna Schroeder in honor of: Pastor

Bo & Glenda Hardi in honor of: Grandchildren

Randal Schoppa in memory of: Lillian S. & Paul Schoppa, Jr. Schoppa Family; Streit Family

Ken & Kathy Schkade in memory of: Walter & Hilda Gueber, August & Margeret Schkade, and Our Beloved Christian Parents.

Lois Kramer in memory of Loves Ones

Pastor & Michelle to the Glory of God

Peggy Daufenbach in memory of James Wiechman & Janice Parker

Faith "Tina" Anderson" in honor of children, Phil & Tracy and Grandchildren, Austin, Abbey, Landon, Kenna, Trey, & Cole.

Ben & Darla English in memory of: Norma Flick

Ben & Darla English in honor of: Jesse Flick and Ben's Mom, Sandra

Leann Roten in honor of: Hank & Barbara Roten (Parents)



## God's People at Work during January

### Elders

William Parker  
Kenneth Schkade  
Ben English

### Ushers

Randal Schoppa  
Eugene Krueger  
Hank Hancock

### Altar Duty

Set Up: Nancy Martinez  
& Debra Truette  
Take Down: Judy Hancock  
& Delores Palmatary

### Greeters

Jan. 5—Leanne Roten & Michelle Cody  
Jan. 12—Delores Palmatary & Ruth Rathgeber  
Jan. 14—Pam Marten & Nancy Martinez  
Jan. 26—Hank & Judy Hancock

### Readers

Jan. 5—Ken Schkade  
Jan. 12—Pastor Cody  
Jan. 14—Eugene Krueger  
Jan. 26—Kenny Theimer

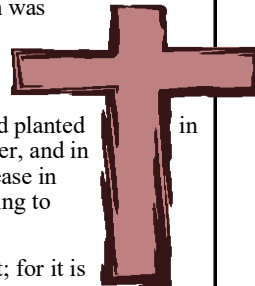
## Stewardship Quip

There once lived a live-wire boy in New York named Jason. His actions, antics and humorous comments added much levity to peoples' lives around him. Down deep, however, Jason was struggling. His faith was dormant; his belief quite shaky.

Then something happened. Something that gave him assurance that God was real and wanted him to become a more dedicated disciple. He had an encounter with God that altered him. A friend tells how she observed Jason develop into a steadfast steward of the gifts God had planted in him. She details how he strove to grow close to God in his daily actions, in Bible study, in prayer, and in service projects, especially those sponsored by the church. In short, Jason began to increase in faith and in service to God and others. Jason, whether he realized it or not, was actually beginning to fulfill the advice that St. Peter gave to the early Christians.

Peter wrote: "As he (God) which called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15). Jason was growing in grace. Good stewardship, is putting God first in our lives and then using all the gifts God has given us to glorify the Creator. To do that is to grow in grace and holiness in ourselves. Jason's adventure is told in "A Call to Holiness" in January's issue of *Stewardship*.

**Prayer:** Holy and loving God, help us to grow in grace and holiness that we may please you in every way. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# Days to Celebrate in January

## Birthdays

3rd Phillip Anderson	24th Mary Ann Martinez
6th Kirk Horton	27th Nancy Martinez
9th Michelle Rangel, Peggy Deffenbach	29th James Martinez; Bobbi Wright
11th Pam Marten	31st Janna Buckmaster
13th Lacey Rangel	
20th Abigail Weichman; Jim Reeves	
22nd Freddie Smith	



## Wedding Anniversaries

Troy & Katey Lewis      31 years Married on 1/28/1989



Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor, Michelle Cody
- ✦ Kathy (Organist) & Kenneth Schdade
- ✦ 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 Paul Lutheran Church.
- ✦ All those sick or suffering in our church family.
- ✦ Church unity.

## THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to each and every one who assisted in the Christmas Gift Project for the residents at the Courtyard Gardens. A big thank you Ruth Rathgeber and Emilee Sherrod for wrapping all of those gifts, and anyone else who has not been mentioned in helping in some way for those who needed a little help this Christmas. With your generous donations and the help from Thrivent, we were able to provide Christmas to 51 residents.

**Calling All Board and Committee Members for Brainstorming Seminar  
Saturday, January 18, in the Fellowship Hall**

**9:00AM-3:00PM All Boards and Committee Members are invited to join.**

**Due to meeting on January 18, there will be NO Church Council Meeting**

**Quarterly Voter's Meeting Sunday, February 16**

Our next quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held immediately following Divine Service on Sunday, February 16, in the Fellowship Hall.

The **LWML Ladies Group** will meet on Thursday, January 16, at 9:15AM. All ladies interested are very welcome to join them!



Our **Women's Bible Study** meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month of January 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**

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League Grant #6 — God's Healing Power and Grace**

**Lutheran Church of Guatemala and Child Beyond International — \$100,000**

Guatemala, although a beautiful country, has many people who suffer in extreme poverty. Over 50 percent of the children are malnourished and have no access to any form of medical or dental care. Most have no pre- or post-natal care and often die from preventable diseases. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hood River, Oregon, and the Lutheran Church of Guatemala have partnered to share God's physical and spiritual healing with as many souls as possible in the decades to come. They have developed a network of LCMS partner churches to send health professionals and mission teams to Guatemala on short-term medical mission trips. And, in order to reach these isolated villages, they need the right tool, namely, a Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus. Once the funds from the LWML grant are received, a bus will be purchased and retrofitted with medical and Bible school equipment which will enable the teams to share the healing love of Jesus both physically and spiritually. While the physicians tend to the physical needs of their patients, the ministers and lay leaders will go into the villages and set up Bible classes, VBS, and worship services for the spiritual needs of the patients — all because of one bus. For more information about this grant, go to [www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-6](http://www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-6).

Mission Grant #6 — Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala — Lutheran Church of Guatemala and Child Beyond International — \$100,000 was selected by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at their national convention to be funded during the 2019-2021 biennium. Once the funds are received, a bus named the "4M Bus" will be purchased, retrofitted, and stocked with medical and Bible school equipment. This will enable the teams to bring healing, both physically and spiritually, to Guatemalan children and adults in isolated and remote villages. The country of Guatemala is called "The Land of Eternal Spring" because of its temperate climate; however, many of its citizens live in extreme poverty with over 50 percent of the children suffering from malnutrition and having no access to any form of medical or dental care. Rev. Abdiel Orozco, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Guatemala, and his brother, Rev. Elry Orozco, are doctors. They have developed a network of LCMS partner churches to send medical professionals and mission teams to Guatemala on short-term medical mission trips to bring the love and mercy of Jesus through the clinics, Bible school classes, and worship services. Local Lutheran churches will follow up with each person served through the medical clinic, enabling thousands of Guatemalans to experience God's healing power and grace, both physically and spiritually. For more information about this grant, go to [www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-6](http://www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-6).

