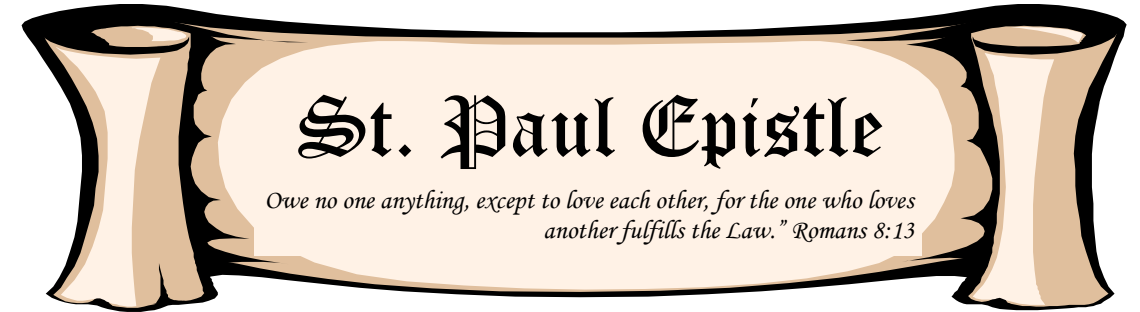




St. Paul Lutheran Church
1417 11th Street, P.O. Box 126
Wichita Falls, TX 76307



St. Paul Epistle

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another fulfills the Law." Romans 8:13

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

Volume 3

March 2021

Issue 3

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Pastor's Meditation

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Every Lent we are faced with the temptation to believe that we can make it alone without Jesus or that we are self-sufficient and are doing just fine on our own. Then things happen—things that we have no control over and all of a sudden we are immediately cognizant of the fact that we do need Jesus more than we know. I think the real temptation is the line of thinking that we only need prayer during our times of need. Why is this? Why do we think like this? Why do we not have good prayer practice when things are going well? Do we only think that Jesus is available when something goes terribly wrong or when things are not right? The temptation is we feel as if we are somehow in control. The truth of the matter is that we are not—we are never in control. Just give it a moment and you will see right away that we are not.

Jesus used prayer in His own times of temptation and also encouraged His disciples to do the same. There is a direct link between prayer and temptation. Prayer helps keep us from falling into temptation. Jesus found this connection so important that He included it as one of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer— "lead us not into temptation." He encouraged His disciples to pray that they not be tempted.

Being in the Word is another strong tool that we can use to keep us from falling victim to Satan's temptations. Notice here that Satan cannot make you sin—you sin of your own accord when you choose to fall victim to a temptation. Satan can only tempt you. So the old line, "The devil made me do it" has no merit or credibility. However, it is our human nature to always place the blame on somebody or something because it has been happening that way from the very beginning of creation.

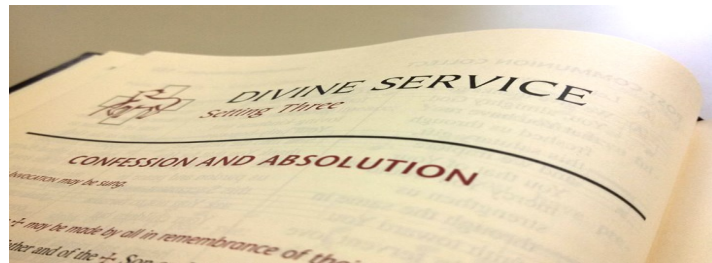
If you want to be strong and have the ability to resist temptation, then simply be in

(Continued on page 2)

Our Weekly Divine Service Schedule

Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
- 10:15 a.m. Divine Service
(The Lord's Supper is offered every Sunday at St. Paul)



Pastor's Meditation Cont.,

the places God promises to be—in His Word and in His Sacraments and in prayer. There you will find the strength to withstand all the evil temptations that Satan will throw your way.

The biggest temptation is the temptation to believe that you don't need to go to church, you don't need to hear the Word, you don't need to receive the Sacraments regularly, and that you don't need your brothers and sisters in Christ, all because you have "Jesus in your heart." If you remain disconnected from the vine of God's love, the nourishment of His Word and Sacraments, and the fellowship of God's people, you will eventually die spiritually.

Many Christians think that they can be away from the Means of God's Grace and still thrive and survive. You may be okay and appear fine for a while, but eventually if you remain away too long, you will die spiritually.

Jesus said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from Me you can do nothing." What Jesus is saying here is that we need Him very much. We need Him to keep us from falling into temptation. We need Him to help us from becoming self-sufficient. We need Him because He has been tempted in every way that we are, yet He was without sin. He can help us in our time of need.

It has been said that when person is dying of hypothermia (or when they are freezing to death) that they don't want to wake up when trying to be revived. They don't want to wake up because they say when you're dying of hypothermia it feels so good.

People who have grown so cold from inactivity, and who haven't been in the warmth of God's Word and in the fire of His Sacraments, most likely feel so good about what they are doing, that they don't want to be awoken from their impending spiritual death. Please don't let this happen. Listen to the wake-up calls that God may be sending your way. Come back and join together with your brothers and sisters in Christ who are going through many of the same things you are going through, and who understand and can help you in your own time of temptation and need. Use the tools that Jesus has made available for you—His Word, Sacraments, and prayer. After all, if Jesus used them—they must be awesome!

Join me this Lenten season to fan into flame the power of the Gospel in your life and let us grow together in our faith in Christ. To Him be the glory forever! Amen!

In Christ's Love, +

Pastor Cody
Psalm 84:10

EASTER EGG HUNT! The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 27 from 10:30 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m. at the Family Center. There will be a devotion and then a meal served during this event. The hunt is for children up through the 6th Grade. Older children are invited also to join in the event and help hide the eggs and help the younger children in the hunt. Please sign one of the sign-up sheets around the church so we know how much food to prepare. You are encouraged to invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Come join in the fun.



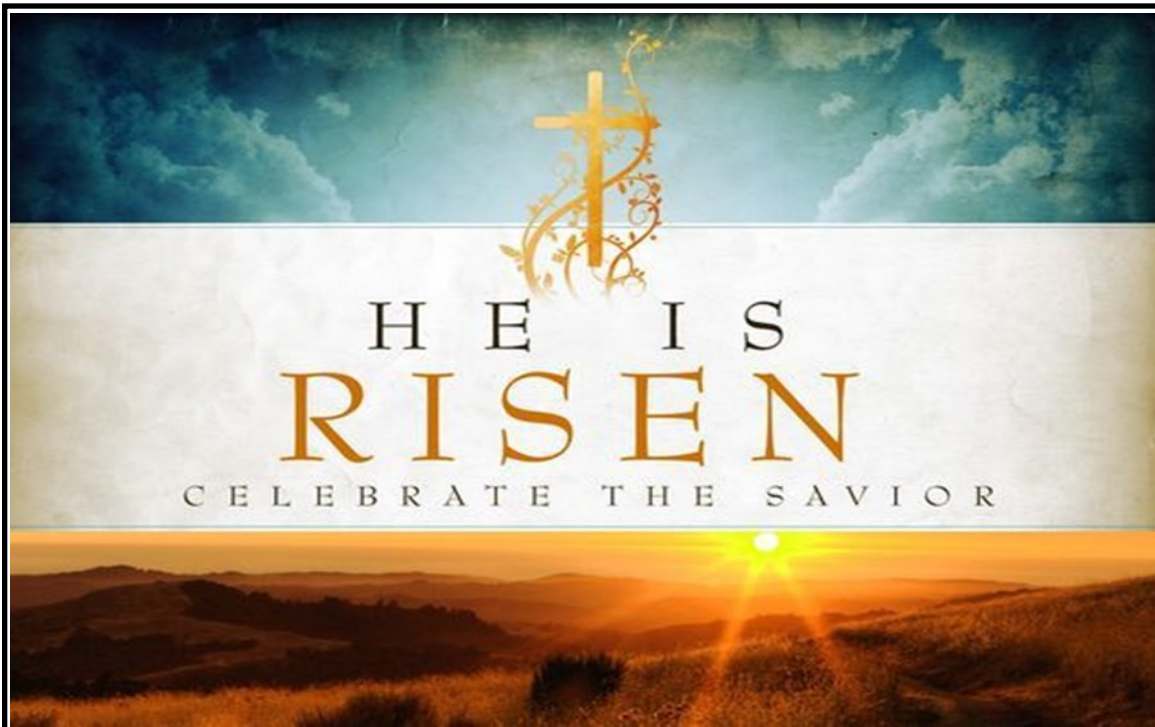
(Directions to the Family Center: Take Highway 281 south to FM 1954 at the blinking yellow light; Turn east (left) on FM 1954; go ½ mile to the cattle guard entrance on the south side of the road; turn south (right) down the access road to the Family Center on the left about ¼ mile.)



Easter Breakfast April 4, 2021

Easter Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunrise Service at 8:00 AM.

Egg Casseroles, sweet rolls, coffee, juice, and milk will be served.



Join us for Easter Services on Sunday, April 4, 2021! We will have a Sunrise Service and a Festival of Hymns Service with Easter breakfast between the services.

Sunrise Service

April 4, 2021..... 6:30AM (Location TBD)

Festival of Hymns Service

April 4, 2021.....10:15AM (at the Church)

FUN AND GAMES

Our next fun and games date will be **Sunday, March 7 at 4:00 PM.** 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!





**On Sunday, February 21, 2021,
we celebrated the Baptism of Joyce
Gayle Townes, child of Richard
and Kyle Townes.**

**We welcome Joyce in to our
Church family!**



Come out and join us for all the services in Holy Week.

We will have services every day during Holy Week, Monday-Saturday. Monday-Wednesday there will be Prayer Litanies at noon & 7PM. Maundy Thursday, we will have the Lord's Supper at noon & 7PM, and the stripping of the altar at the 7PM service. Good Friday Tenebrae service will be at 7PM ONLY! Saturday, Easter Vigil, we will have service at 7PM ONLY.

Monday, March 29, 2021, Prayer Litany...noon & 7PM

Tuesday, March 30, 2021, Prayer Litany...noon & 7PM

Wednesday, March 31, 2021, Prayer Litany...noon & 7PM

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021, Divine Service with Holy Communion...noon & 7PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Darkness...April 2, 2021...7PM ONLY

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 3, 2021...7PM ONLY

The current needs for Faith Mission:

- Toothpaste
- Deodorant (men/women)
- Medicine for clinic (allergy medicine/
decongestant, Mucinex, MiraLAX, and
Colace— unopened and unexpired)
- Postage stamps



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS



**Easter
Lilies**

Order forms will be in the church
bulletin for all those that would like
to purchase Lilies for Easter. They
are \$10.00 each and all orders with
payment are due by March 21.
Thank you!



TIME TO ORDER EASTER LILIES TO DECORATE THE ALTAR & CHANCEL AREA ON EASTER

Orders must be received with payment by Sunday, March 28th.

Please provide the following information, attach your check for the correct total amount, and place it in an offering plate or send it to the Church office.

Quantity desired: _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____ total amount.

Your Name: _____

- Memory Commemoration Honor
Of

You may take your lilies you ordered after the Easter Service.

- I want my lily (s) I do not want my Lilly (s)

Thank you to everyone who provides lilies for Easter.

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 doing a Multi-Generational Bible Study for all ages called "Bible 101 - Getting Back to Basics". 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.



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! At this time we are studying "Has American Christianity Failed". Come join us..... You'll love it!



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). We have started a multi generational Sunday School class. 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.



St. Paul Italian Bistro Family Dinner Event

*Please plan on joining us on Saturday, March 6, at 5:30 p.m., for the **Italian Bistro Event** for all ages! This event is taking the place of our annual Valentine Gala, which, due to circumstances beyond our control, needed to be canceled this year.*

We didn't want to miss out on this fellowship opportunity, so, get ready to enjoy an evening with good fun, good food, and good fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We will be having a spaghetti dinner with garlic bread and some special desserts provided to us by one of our own church members!



If you would like to attend, please sign up on the attendance sheets which are placed on the table by the elevator door and also on the guest sign-in podium by the front doors of the church. If you want to come and forgot to sign up or simply can't get here, just call the church office and let Lisa know and she will put you on the list. We look forward to seeing y'all there!



The “Give it Away” campaign was a big success in 2020! We are doing this again in 2021. We will again focus on single-parent families. We will be accepting donations throughout the year and will have a church delivery committee who will be hand delivering the checks so that these single parents and children can have a blessed Christmas this year. If you are interested in a life-changing ministry opportunity and would like to be a part of this amazing group to deliver these gifts, please get in contact with Pastor Cody. There will be an offering box in the back of the church for the duration of 2021 to receive funds for this ministry. Please consider giving generously and may God bless our endeavors! To Him be all glory!

The *St. Paul Epistle* is published monthly by:
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The Rev. Rick Cody Pastor
 Cell Phone: 832-745-3314 †
 Email: revcody11@gmail.com

Kathy Schkade.....Organist

Lisa Schur.....Parish Office Worker

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – March 2021

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up, our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others. (<https://blogs.lcms.org/2021>)

Please Pray

Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor, Michelle & Cameron Cody
- ✦ Kathy & Kenneth Schkade
- ✦ Darla & Ben English
- ✦ Lisa Schur, Parish Office Worker
- ✦ The leadership of our church, all boards and committee members.
- ✦ The mission of Paul Lutheran Church.
- ✦ All those sick or suffering in our church family.
- ✦ Church unity.
- ✦ Our nation and governmental leaders.

Prayers of God’s People

FOR - THOSE WITH CANCER:

Jeanette Evans, Janie Khlum, Dennis Keethler, Virginia Martinez, Hank Roten, Lee Shores, Kay Castleberry, Guin Huneycutt, Dan Cullers, Yvette Groover, Chad Brown, Staci Myles, Sally Handrick, David Marshall, Janice Hatcher, Lisa Hawes, and Tina Martinez.



PHYSICAL AND OTHER CONCERNS:

Betty Corder, Brantley French, Duncan Hibbard, Ronnie Newman, Kellen Osborne, Barbara Roten, Mark Lehman, Tyler Sherrod, Ellen Fisher, Richard Schroeder, Jane Schroeder, Jesse Flick, David Baker, Virginia Martinez, Janice Wiechman, Loretta Garcia, Sammy Henderson, Dean Miller, and Susan Scott.

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

Sympathy: The family of Lee Cole, Bo & Glenda Hardi’s brother-in-law who passed away on Feb. 24.

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



LWML
Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML 2019-2020 Mission Goal Met!

“Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!”

The LWML, by God’s grace, has reached the mission goal of \$2.1 million set for the 2019-2021 biennium. This means that all mission grants selected for this biennium can be funded!

The LWML BOD and Presidents Assembly will meet in March to approve the 2021-2023 mission goal– and after the end of the biennium (March 31, 2021)- any surplus mite offerings not given to mission grant recipients in this biennium will be added on top of the allocation for the 2021-2023 mission grants. What a joy and privilege it will be to pray, consider, discuss, and vote for those recipients!

LWML Treasurer Karla Koehler wrote, “We thank God for the many women and men who have generously shared their material blessings so that the LWML can share the love and forgiveness of Christ!” Let the trumpets sound and the cymbals crash, in praise to the Lord!

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



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

Thank You

We wish to thank those who served last month:

Organist: Kathy Schkade, Darla English

Elders: Kenneth Schkade, William Parker, Kevin Copeland

Sound man/PowerPoint: Ben English, Eugene Kruger

Altar Guild: Altar Guild Ladies (setup) Michelle Cody, Leanne Roten (take-down) (And all members!)

Greeters: Nancy Martinez, and all greeters

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

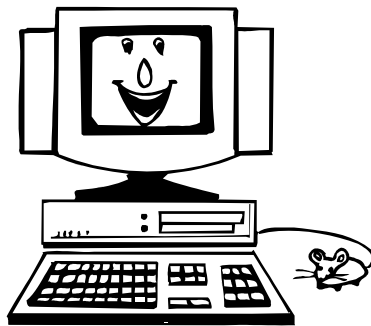
All Church Council members

All Board and Committee members

Treasurer: Nina Keethler



Check out our website!
www.stpaulwftx.org



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.



You are invited to attend the **Confirmation Examination** on **Friday, March 26, 2021** at 6 PM. Come and support our confirmands! A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.



Confirmation Sunday this year will be Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Days to Celebrate in March

Birthdays

3rd Cisco Esparza	23rd Pam Bernhardt, Larry Martinez, Bryson Russell
4th Kenna Brackeen	28th Laci Edwards
9th Barry Truette	29th Cherie Miller
16th Dorothy Kutler, Randal Schoppa	
18th Rubin Covington	
22nd Vicki Holland	



Wedding Anniversaries



God's People at Work during March

Elders

William Parker
Kenneth Schkade
Kevin Copeland

Ushers

Randal Schoppa
Eugene Krueger

Altar Duty

Set Up: Members of Altar
Guild
Take Down: Michelle
Cody & Leanne Roten

Greeters

Mar. 7 –Delores Palmatary, Ruth
Rathgeber
Mar. 14– Pam Marten, Nancy Martinez
Mar. 21 Hank & Judy Hancock
Mar. 28 - Kevin Copeland, Ruth

Readers

Mar.7—Ken Schkade
Mar. 14—Kevin Copeland
Mar. 21—Eugene Krueger
Mar. 28—Kenneth Theimer

The Season of Lent