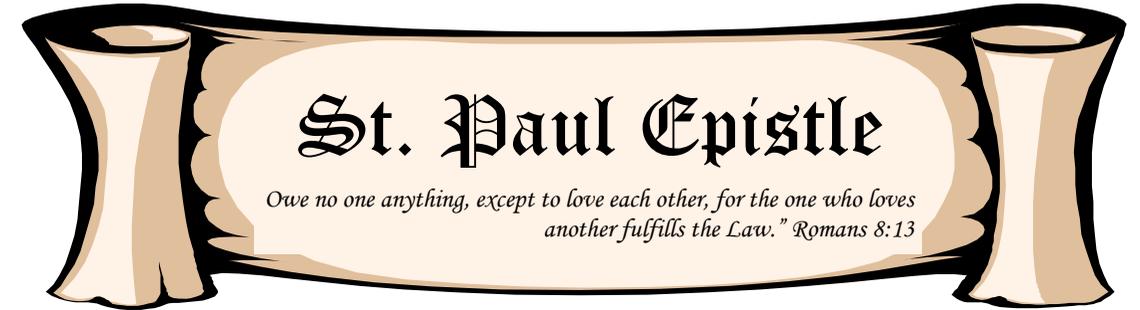




St. Paul Lutheran Church
1417 11th Street, P.O. Box 126
Wichita Falls, TX 76307



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

Volume 4

November 2021

Issue 11

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Pastor's Meditation

Dear Friends at St. Paul,

As we come rapidly to the close of yet another year of life, we are always confronted first with this holiday at the end of November called Thanksgiving. Every year families gather around the dinner table to stuff themselves beyond their stomach's capacity and tell the others who have gathered around what they are thankful for in the last year. Most of the time it becomes a silly listing off of things such as, "Boy, I'm glad Dad didn't do the cooking!" or "I'm thankful that Grandpa didn't eat all the pumpkin pie!" and the list goes on. The question I would like you to ponder this year is what are you truly thankful for in your life?

As I was preparing this article, I couldn't help but think about the wonderful gift God has given us this past year. Do you realize that as of the writing of this article what we have been able to do this year? We have, after an awful 2020 Covid year, been able to do a major event nearly every month this year. Sometimes we even had more than one major event a month. I know that it has been a lot of work for our small group, but I just want everyone to know how wonderfully thankful I am to each and every one of you for all the hard work you do here at St. Paul.

Thanksgiving Day seems to have lost its former focus as a day of prayer. For many it is popularly known as "Turkey Day". Have we all gone a-foul? We have so much in our lives for which we should be thankful.

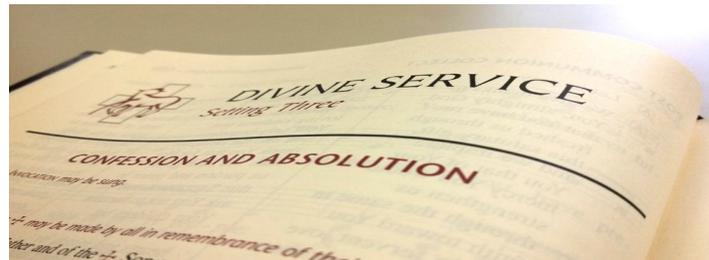
Christians, especially, be thankful. God has chosen

(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.,

through Jesus Christ to overcome the obstacles, difficulties, uncertainties, and calamities inherent in humanity's sinful rebellion against God. In Jesus Christ, God overcame sin, death, and the devil for us. Our thanksgiving flows from forgiven hearts, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. For His mercy endures forever."

Sight unseen—in Christ—we are thankful against all odds and discouragement. If the Lord is on our side, why should we be discouraged?

With joyous attitude and prayerful posture, God's faith-formed-folk are told to "give thanks in all circumstances." No circumstance in life is an excuse for not being thankful. Despite our backsliding, our pride, our cowardice, and our rebellion, God remains constant in mercy. That is why we thank God. His goodness to us is His unceasing mercy. Job knew that. His heart, while broken at the loss of His children and possessions, rested thankfully in God's safekeeping, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord"(Job1:21).

To "Give thanks in all circumstances" is to grasp the idea that all things happen for the Christian's good. Paul said it well, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. What then shall we say? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?" (Rom. 3:28, 31-32).

In light of this, I am thankful for many things. I am thankful first of all for my Lord Jesus Christ. I am thankful for my wonderful wife and our boys and their wives and our little grandson and our grandbaby on the way! I am thankful that the Lord called me to be His servant of the Word. I am thankful that I have a very special congregation who recognizes that the "God who is able" will continue to provide for all our needs of body and soul. Jesus will never abandon us but will watch over us and keep us in His loving arms forever, and in that thought, I know that this church will be here for many, many years to come! If that's not something to be thankful for, I don't know what is. Please take time this Thanksgiving to share with each other those things for which you, too, are thankful. I love all of you with the love of Christ! The Lord be with you!

In Christ's love, †

Pastor
Psalm 84:10

Don't forget that Advent begins this year on Sunday, November 28, 2021. The first Advent midweek Services will be Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, at noon and 7 PM. (See page 4 for the theme.)



The Give-it-away campaign is kicking off for Christmas 2021, where our church family blesses other families with a Christmas donation. You can donate directly to the project marking your envelope or check memo to Give it Away campaign. To supplement these funds we will be having a silent and live auction. Please begin bringing your silent and live auction items: crafts, homemade, or new only, for this and placing in room 108, on the side table. They will begin being viewed in the fellowship hall Sunday, Nov 21. Final bidding both silent and live, will be held Sunday, Dec 5 after church. Snacks will be provided. Silent auction items will be marked with bid sheets, but live auction items can only be bid upon Dec 5! If you have a special talent or craft to share for this please consider donating an item. Baked goods can only be brought on Dec 5 so that they will be fresh and should be labeled as to what they are. Please join us! Questions? Call the church office.

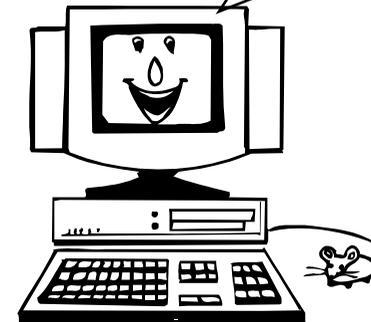


Our **2nd Annual First Responder Appreciation** meal was a huge success! We served 200 meals to our area law enforcement, fire department, EMS, and Air Evac. A huge thank you to Kenny Theimer and Pastor Cody for smoking the meat for the meal. It was amazing. Thank you Darla English, Leanne Roten and Pastor Cody for coordinating the event. Thank you Ruth and Judy for shopping and getting all the things we needed for the meal! And thank you to the many volunteers who helped set up, put the meals together and deliver the meals.



Our next fun and games date will be **Sunday, November 1st 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!

Check out our website!
www.stpaulwftx.org



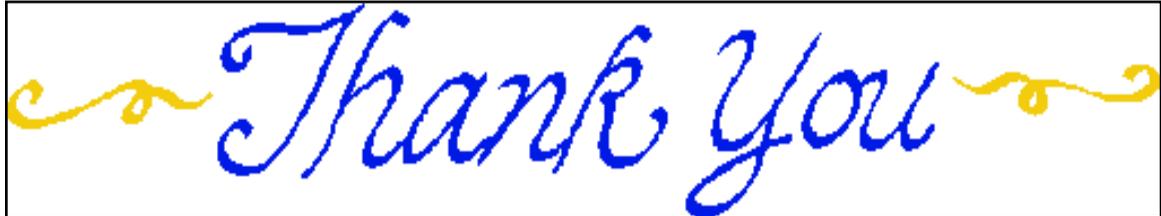
Voter's Meeting
 Sunday, November 21
 following church



**Advent Midweek Series—
When Heaven Met Earth: Advent Answers
to Hard Questions Hardly Anybody Is Asking**

1. Advent Midweek 1: The Birth of God: How . . . and Why? Luke 1:26–38
2. Advent Midweek 2: The Obedient Child: Did He Know? Luke 2:41–52
3. Advent Midweek 3: The Man’s Man: Why Would Jesus Ever Cry? Luke 19:41–44; John 11:30–36

Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, November 24, at 7 PM. Come out and give thanks for the blessings that God has given to you this year! This will be a service with Holy Communion.



We wish to thank those who served last month:
Organist: Darla English, Leo Tulagan
Elders: Kenneth Schkade, William Parker, Kevin Copeland
Sound man/PowerPoint: Eugene Kruger
Altar Guild: Nancy Martinez, Debra Truette (setup) Vicki Holland, Lisa Schur (take-down) (And all members!)
Greeters: Delores Palmatary, Leanne Roten, Hank & Judy Hancock, and all greeters
Ushers: Randal Schoppa, Eugene Kruger, ...and all who volunteer on Sundays
All Church Council members
All Board and Committee members
Parish Worker: Lisa Schur
Treasurer: Kathy Kabell
Church Sexton: Randall Schoppa

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

Darla English, Leo Tulagan.....Organist
 Lisa Schur Parish Office Worker

Memorials & Tributes

In Memory of former member, Charlie Heugel, to the North Campus by Darla & Ben English.

In Memory of Norma Flick to St. Paul Lutheran Church by Tim & Emilie Sherrod.

In honor of clergy appreciation month for Pastor Cody to St. Paul Liturgical Arts by K. Johnson.

In Memory of Virginia Hendricks to St. Paul Lutheran Church by Ken & Kathy Schkade.

In Memory of Virginia Hendricks to the Elevator Fund by: Hank & Judy Hancock, Larry & Nancy Martinez, and Virginia Martinez.

In Memory of Virginia Hendricks to the Window Fund by Randal Schoppa.



The Children's Christmas Program rehearsal practice will begin on Sunday, November 28, during Sunday School.



Parents, please come to the beginning of this first practice/meeting and we will determine best times for rehearsals. The Children's program includes children and Jr. High and High School.

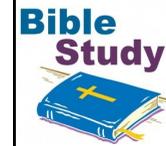
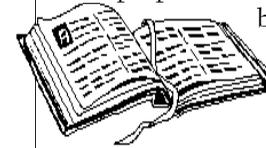
The Program will be held on Sunday, December 19 at 6:00 PM. If you have questions contact Darla English at 940-733-1063.

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.



Religious 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 continue to study 100 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.



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 5:00 pm. 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! We will begin a new study on the Book of Matthew! We meet at 6 pm following Adult Catechism. 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). Bring the kids out and stay for Adult Bible study yourselves. Teach your children good habits 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 confirm with their parents, 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 myself will be picking the kids up and taking them home, if needed. Thank you!



If you didn't make it to Oktoberfest, you missed out on great food and great fellowship.

Here is a list of winners for the afternoon:

- Cobbler—1st-Darla English, Judy Hancock & Deanna Schroeder (tied for 2nd)
- Pumpkin Shotput— Cameron Cody (men), Lisa Schur (women)
- Pumpkin Throw—Russell Heineken (men), Carli Dickens (women)
- Nailing the 95 Thesis— Pastor Cody (men), Lisa Schur (women)
- Stein Holding— Russell Heineken (men), Carli Dickens (women)

We would like to thank Ben English for smoking the meat, Ruth Rathgeber, Delores Palmatary, and Judy Hancock for all of their hard work in the kitchen. Thank you to the Boards of Education/Evangelism for their hard work in the planning and decorating for our activity. Thank you to everyone who brought food and participated in the event!

God's People at Work during November

Elders

William Parker
Kenneth Schkade
Kevin Copeland

Ushers

Randal Schoppa
Eugene Krueger

Sexton

Randal Schoppa

Altar Duty

Set Up: Nancy Martinez,
Debra Truette
Take Down: Vicki Hol-
land, Lisa Schur

Greeters

Nov. 7— Leanne Roten, Michelle Cody
Nov. 14 — Delores Palmatary, Ruth
Rathgeber
Nov. 21 — Pam Marten, Nancy Mar-
tinez
Nov. 28 — Hank & Judy Hancock

Readers

Nov. 7 — Ken Schkade
Nov. 14 — Kevin Copeland
Nov. 21 — Eugene Kruger
Nov. 28 — Kenneth Theimer

Days to Celebrate in November

Birthdays

- 2- Declan Lewis
- 3- Andrew Chance
- 6- Russell Heineken
- 7- Shelby Buckmaster
- 8- Ryan Cody
- 17- Alexander Myers
- 18- Britton Horton
- 19- Riley Brincefield
- 21- Clara Buckmaster
- 29- Kevin Copeland



Wedding Anniversaries

- 2nd Kenneth & Hollye Theimer
- 11th Bobby & Tracy Scarber
- 25th Jim & Karen Reeves



Please Pray

Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor, Michelle Cody
- ✦ Darla English, Leo Tulagan, Organist
- ✦ Lisa Schur, Parish Office Worker
- ✦ The leadership of our church, all boards and committee members.
- ✦ The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church.
- ✦ All those sick or suffering in our church family.
- ✦ Church unity.
- ✦ Our nation and governmental leaders.
- ✦ All military personnel..

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, and Kent Streit.



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, Townes Family, Drew Susac, Shelby & Sawyer Susac, Jordan Susac., and Jennifer Olsen.

HOMEBOUND/SHUT-IN MEMBERS: Dorothy Kutzler (Royal Estates), Virginia Hendricks (Rolling Meadows), 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).



Tabitha Joy/LWML would like to extend their thanks to all who made donations to our Lutheran World Relief project. We were able to assemble **30** hygiene kits that were delivered to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. From there they will be taken to Dallas, Texas on November 13 by members from our Red River Zone.

The **Red River Zone** will be holding their Fall Rally on November 6th at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wichita Falls, TX. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM and Pastor Snyder will begin his devotion at 9: 15 AM.



The **LWML Ladies Group** will meet on **Thursday, November 16**, at 1:00 pm. All ladies interested are very welcome to join us! We will have a devotion and discuss our current project for the Texas District LWML.

The current needs for Faith Mission:

- Men's underwear/boxers (L/XL)
- Tennis Shoes (9-12)
- Blankets
- Disposable Razors
- Deodorant
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex
- Copy Paper



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!



Mark your Calendars!
 Sunday, December 5, 2021

There will be a silent and live auction following church. Pizza will be served before the auction begins. Anyone who would like to donate items for the event are asked to drop them off at the church by November 21. The items will be set up and bid sheet will be set out prior to the event. The money raised will go towards the "Give it Away" campaign.

