

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Church on the Highway

Loving others into the Love of Christ

May 2025 Edition

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A Message From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse

Email: pastorhesse@splcwaco.com

Lent went in a flash and before we know it, we find ourselves in the month of May. This month will be a celebration of Easter Sundays. We get to proclaim the Good News that Christ is risen. During the Lent season we experienced change and new routines that God has given us in our fellowship and worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church. In the coming weeks, this will be examined closely and perhaps there will be more to experience and more to build on as we grow in relationships here at St. Paul.

For many, May is also the time they are looking forward to the end of a school year and the coming of Summer. Before that can happen, here at St. Paul we will rejoice with the following students on their Confirmation Sunday, May 4, 2025 (a complete list of confirmands is available in the church office).

Of course, Confirmation Sunday is just one faith milestone that we have celebrated so far this year. We will also look to encourage our graduates in both High School and College. So be sure to share with us your graduate's information. Please turn in the name and school of your graduate so we can rejoice with them.

Finally at the end of the month I will be looking forward to a new experience. The SPLC Board of Directors has approved participation the LCMS Campus Ministry Conference. Our long-time campus ministry coordinator, Karen Shelton, and I will be joined by one of our Baylor students. Together we will travel and learn new strategies to bless our active campus ministry program. This opportunity is being funded by the proceeds received from St. Paul's new Mission and Ministry Endowment Fund. With all the ministry that continues this month we have numerous opportunities to continue loving others into the love of Jesus Christ.



Sunday Worship
8am & 10:30am
Online: www.splcwaco.com

Bible Class/Sunday School
9:15am





A Message From Our Youth & Family Director

Josh McNamara, D.C.E.

Email: FamilyMinistry@splcwaco.com

“Ramping Up For VBS!”

Believe it or not it's that time of the year friends. It's time to start prepping and planning for VBS! VBS is right around the corner and it will be here before we know it. Vacation Bible School presents us with an amazing opportunity to reach families for the sake of God's kingdom that we might not normally have the chance to share God's love with on a weekly or even a monthly basis. As much as I love VBS and as much as I wish that I could clone myself so that I could experience all of VBS in real-time, I know the reality of that simply isn't possible.

This is where you, your family and even your friends can help. VBS is one of the events that our church does that as the saying goes “takes a village.” And trust me, it certainly does. From the decorating, to the meal prep, to the station rotations, to the tech team and everything else in between, we need your help.

You have an amazing opportunity to help show God's real, tangible love to the children and to the families of our congregation, as well as to the children and families of our surrounding community. The sad truth is that we don't always know what kind of home life situation these children will be coming to us from. But what we do know is that we have a God who never stops loving us, who never fails us and who won't stop guiding us each and everyday of our lives.

If you want to see the hallways and spaces of our church building come alive in ways that I can't even begin to imagine as we seek to share that amazing love of God with those children and families, then I lovingly invite you to join us on our journey as we begin to ramp up for VBS! Stop by our volunteer sign-up table in the church foyer (at the tent). to see how God might be able to use you and your unique gifts and talents to help further His kingdom work here at St. Paul.

This summer our VBS theme is called “True North” and it will certainly help the children we encounter to learn more about God's love for them as they begin to look for ways that they can seek out Jesus, our True North.

In a time where children can be confused and influenced by the wayward ways and voices of the world we live in, we are truly blessed with this opportunity to trek alongside these children, as we help them to learn about God and His great love for them through the lens of our VBS program. I am excited to see what God is going to do in and through our efforts as we prepare for VBS this summer! My hope and prayer is that you would consider joining us for a wild encounter with God that's sure to be unforgettable.

May the One who keeps us and sustains us be with and bless you and your family as you consider serving with us for our Vacation Bible School program this summer.

In Christ,
Josh McNamara - Director of Youth and Family Ministry



SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for the Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting. More details will be shared in upcoming worship bulletins and in the June newsletter.



Help
Needed
Serving
Lemonade

We are looking for volunteers to help with serving lemonade following 10:30 a.m. Worship Services from late Spring until early Fall when the temperatures change.

If you would be interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the church office.



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

- † We pray for continued healing for all those who have suffered physical problems in the last month, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord lay His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who are undergoing cancer diagnosis/treatment, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord keep His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who struggle with ongoing health concerns, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord keep His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who are home-bound, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord give them comfort and peace with their living situation.
- † We pray for all those in nursing care or assisted/independent living facilities, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord will give them comfort and peace with their living situation.
- † We pray for those who have lost loved ones in the past month, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). May the Lord provide these families comfort and peace during their time of grief.
- † We pray for those serving in our Armed Forces (a complete list of those serving our country is available in the church office). We pray the Lord keep them safe in their stead as they defend our freedom and safety.

Prayer requests for illnesses, hospitalizations and recovery are listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to remain on the prayer list, please provide the office with an update by calling (254.799.3211) or send an email to: wecare@splcwaco.com. Without an update, we will remove that person from the prayer list hopeful that all is well. We are always willing to take new or renewed requests at anytime.

ST. PAUL SENIOR ADULTS will meet **on Wednesday, May 14, at 11:00 a.m. for a Worship Service with Holy Communion**, followed by our monthly fellowship lunch. Everyone is invited to join us for this time of fellowship! ***Desserts are appreciated for the luncheon, but not required.*** If you have any questions, please call the church office (254.799.3211).



We will be looking at new opportunities for weekly Bible study for all members. Please watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for information, or see Pastor Hesse with questions.



Those who are scheduled to Serve at SPLC for May 2025

(listed by initial and last name to protect their identity)

ELDER OF THE MONTH:

E King

ALTAR FLOWERS:

5/4 2024 Confirmation Class
5/11 K & C Cohrt
5/18 J & C Lehrmann
5/25 S Boesche

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS:

5/4 A Gilchrest (8:00am)
T & L Harrington (10:30am)
5/11 W Ehlers (8:00am)
K Kubitzka (10:30am)
5/18 T Albers (8:00am)
J Kersten (10:30am)
5/25 D & K Schwarz (8:00am)
F & K Spross (10:30am)

ACOLYTES:

5/4 J McNamara (8:00am)
J McNamara (10:30am)
5/11 M Schmedthorst (8:00am)
E Tindle (10:30am)
5/18 K Gerik (8:00am)
E Williams (10:30am)
5/25 D Sterriker (8:00am)
R Lassetter (10:30am)

LAY READERS

5/4 M Borchardt(8:00am)
T Elmore (10:30am)
5/11 K Rogers (8:00am)
J Lieb (10:30am)
5/18 B Strickland (8:00am)
D Galler (10:30am)
5/25 J Nawara (8:00am)
B Dube (10:30am)

USHERS FOR WORSHIP

8:00am Worship: Group 1

J Lamar, J Dutschmann, B Gilchrest, Bi Dube,
J Ehlers, M Borchardt, C Hesse

10:30am Worship: Group 2

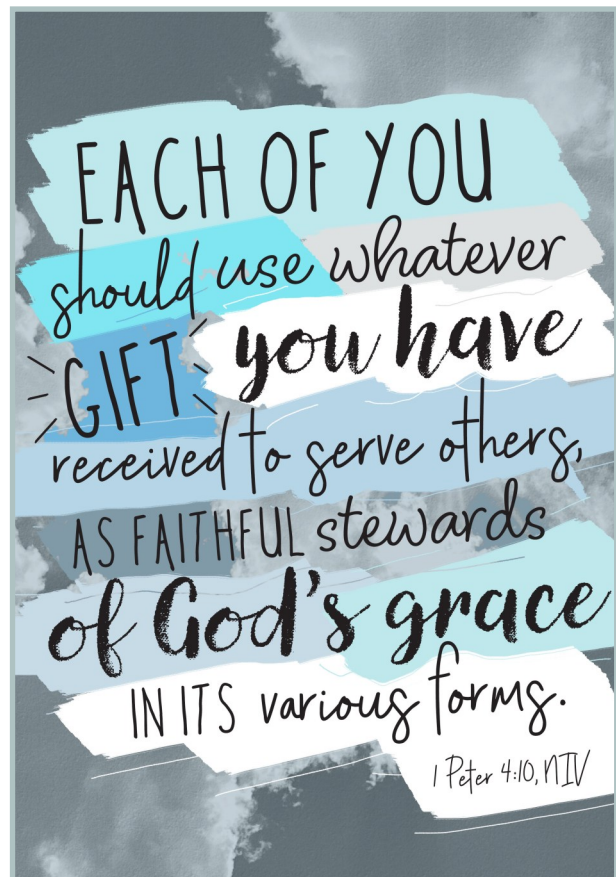
T Harrington, B Kubitzka, R Bolen, C Tindle,
N Gonzalez, B Strickland, N West

NURSERY PARTNERS

May 4: 9:00am C Borchardt
10:15am Needs a Nursery Ministry Partner
May 11: 9:00am W Ehlers
10:15am Needs a Nursery Ministry Partner
May 18: **9:00am Needs a Nursery Ministry Partner**
10:15am J Uptmore
May 25: 9:00am A Gilchrest
10:15am Needs a Nursery Ministry Partner

As you can see by the schedule above, we are still in need of members to be Nursery Partners. We encourage you to pray about this Nursery Ministry opportunity, and to please contact Josh McNamara if you are led to serve.

***Email: FamilyMinistry@splcwaco.com
Office: 254.799.3211, ext. 103***



LWML NEWS:

May Blessings from St. Paul LWML.

First of all, thanks for your support for our April Bake sale. Thanks to you, we were able to send over \$700.00 to support our National and Texas District Mite goals and Mission Grants.

Here is an update on our Texas Mission Grant funding:

There are 14 Mission Grants. Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry Scholarships and Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care Warehouse Repairs, El Paso have both received all of their funding. 10 Mission Grants have received partial funding and the remaining 2 have not received any funding. So far \$134,064 has been paid out with \$138,250 to go. We still have a year to collect and distribute the remaining funds for the 12 remaining grants. If you would like to know more about the mission grants you may go to lwmltxdist.org and click on Mission Grants.

In Christian love,
Jacqueline Uptmore

Mission Grants	Disbursed	Balance
Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students — \$60,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
New Life Children's Center Spiritual Care Program, Canyon Lake — \$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Disaster Response Team, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler — \$15,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Orphan Grain Train Shipping Supplies, Houston — \$15,000	\$7,500	\$7,500
Proclaiming Christ to People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (LBW) — \$20,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Let It Shine Academy, Bethany, Austin, Lutheran Special Education Ministries — \$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Adventure Woods Day Camp Outreach, Camp Lone Star, Tomball — \$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry Scholarships — \$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Hereford Hispanic Outreach Program, Hereford — \$25,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers and Maternal Assistance Program, Houston — \$8,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
Disciple and Mobilize Youth for Gospel Outreach, Glocal Mission, Houston — \$12,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Little Lambs Parents' Day Out Ministry Playground Equipment, Sulphur Springs — \$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Christian Education Scholarships K-12, Central Texas — \$25,000	\$6,250	\$18,750
Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care Warehouse Repairs, El Paso (partial funding) — \$17,314	\$17,314	\$0
Total	\$134,064	\$138,250



Attention all 2025 St. Paul Graduates!

We want to celebrate YOU, and give you a chance to brag about all of your accomplishments during your education!

Please submit your graduate information by Monday, May 19, 2025.

Please include: school of graduation, degree received, participation in any clubs, groups, sports, etc.; as well as any special awards, accolades, or scholarships. Please keep information as short/condensed as possible (1-3 short paragraphs).

This information will be published in the JUNE 2025 Newsletter.
If you have any questions please contact the church office at:
wecare@splcwaco.com.



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.

A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Classes for All Ages

Please join us for Sunday School and Bible Classes at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Study (Albers Family Life Center)

Join us as we begin a new study, *Expanding Your Easter*, where we will take a closer look at the lectionary readings appointed for the Easter Season.

ASK PASTOR HESSE: Outside Pastor Hesse's office you will find a box to place any questions that you would like Pastor Hesse to answer during the Adult Bible Study class on Sunday mornings.

Men's Bible Class (classroom behind the Parish Hall)

This class is utilizing the study, *A Longer Look at the Lessons*. With this study, participants will delve deeper into each week's three Scripture readings based on the lectionary in Lutheran Service Book.

Ladies Bible Class (Conference Room)

This class is going through the study, *Significant - A Study of Women in Jesus' Genealogy: Six Ordinary Women, One Extraordinary God*, by Rachel Risner. How can we walk by faith in the face of uncertainty? Six women from the Bible faced their own uncertain times, and yet God used them to build His family. Learn from their stories alongside Rachel Risner as she teaches from the Bible how to be a woman of significance.

Simply Loved, Nursery - Fourth Grade Students (classroom)

Let's get back to the heart of what matters most! Simply help your kids love Jesus and each other. Every activity, song, and visual in *Simply Loved* is designed to help kids remember each lesson long after their children's ministry years. *Simply Loved* curriculum was created with the truth found in 1 John 4:7 in mind which says, 'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.'

Resilient Minds, Sixth - Eighth Grade Students (classroom)

This class is utilizing the study, *Resilient Minds*. This is a Christ-centered study covering topics such as anxiety, emotions, Christian identity, and resiliency.

High School and College Students (Youth Room)

All high school and college students are invited to join in the Youth Room every Sunday for Bible Class! This will be a great time of study, building relationships, fellowship and fun! *Breakfast is usually served.*

Other Bible Study Opportunities:

College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship (LDLT - Lutherans Doing Life Together)

The LDLT group will have their end of semester dinner on Saturday, May 3, at 5:30 p.m. at Casa DeCastillo Restaurant (Sanger Ave., Waco). They will resume their Monday night fellowship and study in the Fall. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Shelton or Pastor Hesse.

Ladies Bible Study Group in the Conference Room

In the wake of Deaconess Krahn's retirement, we will be looking at new opportunities for weekly Bible study for all members. Please watch upcoming bulletins/newsletters for information, or see Pastor Hesse with questions.

Youth Confirmation/Catechesis Training and Music (grades 5-8)

These classes will resume meeting in the Fall, watch for more details.

Please be in prayer for our 8th grade Confirmation students as they prepare for the Rite of Confirmation on May 4, 2025 (a list of those being confirmed is included in Pastor Hesse's article on page 1 of this newsletter).

There's a place for EVERYONE to be immersed in God's Word and fellowship with other Christians!

Children & Youth Activities



Scan here to REGISTER
to attend VBS
June 8-11, 2025

← ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



On Sunday, May 25, students grades 5-12 are invited to join us for lunch at Raising Cane's by Baylor (located at: 801 J H Kultgen Expy), *students/families will be responsible to pay for their meal.* From 2pm-4pm, we will meet at Putters (located at: 320 South 2nd Street) for a fun time playing putt-putt golf. Students are encouraged to bring a bag of quarters as there are also arcade games to play as well. (The putt-putt expenses will be covered.)

Students must register with Josh to attend this event. The registration deadline is: Sunday, May 18.



Our 5th Pre-Gathering Bible study event will be held at Trinity Badger Ranch Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 18, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Food and beverages will be provided.

It is expected that all of our youth who are planning to go with us to New Orleans for the upcoming National Youth Gathering be in attendance for this Pre-Gathering Bible study event.

upcoming events

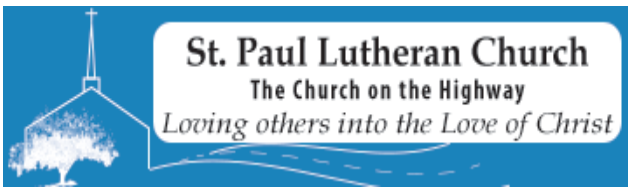
YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT(S):

- ♦ **May 25:** Sinking the Shot Event
- ♦ **June 8-11: VBS** - - Registration is open, and VOLUNTEER sign-ups are available in the church foyer.
- ♦ **June 23-26:** "Created For a Purpose" Youth Trip to Houston. [REGISTER ONLINE](#) by 5/18
- ♦ **July 18-23:** National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENT(S):

- ♦ **June 8-11: VBS** - Registration is open, and VOLUNTEER sign-ups are available in the church foyer.

If you have any questions, please contact Director of Youth & Family Ministry, Josh McNamara, in the church office or see Angel Breton, Chair Children's Ministry; or Hannah Galler, Chair Youth Ministry.



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HERE

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May 2025 Edition



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 8-11, 2025



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ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!