



St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Church on the Highway

Loving others into the Love of Christ

December 2023 Edition

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Sunday Worship
8am & 10:30am

Online: www.splcwaco.com

Bible Class/Sunday School
9:15am



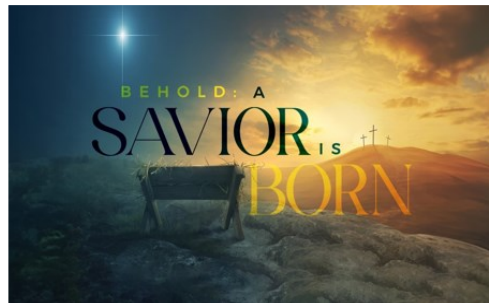
A Message From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse

Email: pastorhesse@splcwaco.com

December seems to come earlier and earlier every year! As I write this, we haven't even celebrated Thanksgiving yet, but for the last week many people are already flooding my calendar with December Christmas party events and other activities. The other day I heard an ad on the radio that the Oreo Cookie Company is holding a nation-wide contest to encourage people to decorate early for Christmas. I have seen some houses replace their Halloween decorations with Christmas decorations and they are already in place for the season.

I know that December is always the 12th month of the year and it never actually gets here earlier. It comes in its proper time. Still, all the marks of December seemingly show up sooner every year. It is a joyous time and there are numerous ways to celebrate the birth of our Savior. No matter your activities I hope you will make it a priority to Behold! A Savior is Born! This will be the theme of our 2023 Advent Services.



As we take time to Behold a Savior we discover that Christmas is actually the fulfillment of centuries of prophetic predictions about the coming of the LORD'S Messiah. God's people waited for a Savior who would come to rescue and restore them. They held onto hope that God would stay true to his promise. With joy, they anticipated Christ's arrival. The world would know the peace of

God, who had come near to them. The prophetic promises provided the hope that the world would never be the same with a savior like the Messiah. This Advent we "Behold A Savior Is Born." Here is a sneak peek at what is in store!

December 6 – Isaiah 7:14

The Promises Hope

December 13 – Luke 1:39-56

The Joy of Anticipation

December 20 – Isaiah 9:6-7

The Prophetic Peace

December 25 – Acts 1:9-11

The Gift of Waiting

I hope you will join us for these special worship services each Wednesday and Christmas Day.



A Message From Our Deaconess

Dcs. Suzanne Krahn

Email: dcskrahn@splcwaco.com

Fluzone Quad 2023-2024

It's that time of year again when the cold and influenza (flu) season comes around. Many have already gotten their flu vaccine for the year. But many are still debating on getting the vaccine or taking a chance getting sick with the influenza virus. The flu shot is designed to help prevent an infection of the "flu" virus. This is an annual decision many strive to make. The influenza virus can cause serious illness (rarely fatal) especially in the high risk category of young children and older adults, and those who suffer from a chronic illness or health problems.

The vaccine works by causing the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against the virus. The flu vaccine is the best method for preventing and decreasing the seriousness of the illness if one becomes infected. The brand of vaccine and the dosage depend of the age of the recipient. The flu vaccine is not recommended for infants less than 6 months old. As with any vaccine, it may not fully protect the person from infection.

There are different types of flu viruses that cause infections every season, usually causing the need to produce a new vaccine and given for each flu season. The vaccine does not contain the live influenza virus. Therefore, it cannot cause a person to get the flu from the vaccine itself. Be sure to read all the information available from your health care professional before receiving the flu vaccine. If you have questions or doubts, ask your health care professional or pharmacist for all the information that is available. The flu shot is given by injection into a muscle in the upper arm for adults, and for infants 6 months and older the injection is in the upper thigh area. Children receive the shot in the upper arm as well. One dose is the standard practice for adults, and children over 9 years old. Children under 9 years of age will sometimes receive 2 smaller doses. The time for the injection is usually September through November, when the cases begin to increase at the start of the flu season.

There are side effects to watch for as with any vaccine. They include: soreness, redness, swelling at the injection site, tenderness that may occur and last 1-2 days. Also watch for fever, muscle aches, headaches, or weakness. These may continue beyond 2 days. But if they do continue or become worse and bothersome, contact your health care professional right away. Some side effects have been reported but are rare: fainting, dizziness, vision changes, ringing in the ears. Tell your health care professional immediately. Sitting or lying down may help, as these may not last long. Some may also experience rare side effects of allergic reaction. If any of the following occur call your health care professional immediately or call 911. These symptoms are: rash, severe dizziness, itching, swelling of the face/throat/tongue, and problems breathing.

As a precaution to avoid potential problems, inform your health care provider if you have any allergies to the medication or preservatives in the vaccine. Also tell them if you have a history of seizures, a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome, Cancer, Leukemia, or are undergoing radiation treatment.

Be sure to tell your health care professional all of the medications (prescribed, over-the-counter, or herbs and supplements) that you are taking as it may interfere with the vaccine or with the medications you take.

Weighing the pros and cons of the influenza vaccine is a serious decision that should be made with caution and the help of your health care professional. Getting the influenza virus can lead to more serious illnesses if you are at risk for getting sick, so choose wisely.

Resource: <https://webmd.com/influenza-vaccine>



The Ol' Sew 'n' Sow Quilters will have their annual Christmas Celebration on Monday, December 11. They are planning a Pizza Party and Bingo in the Parish Hall from 10:00 a.m. until around 3:00 p.m. All of the ladies of the church are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship of the group. If you have any questions, please see Pam Schulze.



A Message From Our Vicar

Rory Fry

Email: VicarFry@splcwaco.com

Hello everybody, Vicar Fry here. I wanted to give you all a brief update about how my vicarage is going so far. I am so grateful to be involved with St. Paul. The love and warmth that my family and I have experienced here amazes me more and more each day. This is truly a special place.

As you may or may not know, I spend most Tuesdays working in the church office. These days consist of seminary coursework, doing various tasks around the church, and mentor sessions with Pastor Hesse and Pastor Gerry from Gathering. I couldn't ask for better teachers or a better place to learn than this! I also work alongside Cindy Byrd to plan meals for DWELL Youth Fellowship.

While I normally serve at Gathering on Sundays, I spend at least one Sunday a month serving here at St. Paul. On these Sundays, Pastor Hesse teaches me the ins and outs of leading worship in a traditional Lutheran setting. Such Sundays are indispensable to my training as a LCMS pastor. I thank you all for your patience as I grow and mature in this.

In December, my family will begin moving into our home in Robinson. We are so glad to be making this move! Currently, we live in Harker Heights, which is about an hour away from Bellmead. We are excited about beginning life in McClennan County.

Come January, I will begin serving full-time at Gathering. I will still perform my assigned duties for St. Paul, but Gathering will more or less be my focus. Lord willing, I will serve as the "Timothy Pastor" at Gathering once I'm ordained in two to three years.

In closing, I want to thank you again for all the love and support you have shown to me and my family. I know that God has brought us to Gathering and St. Paul for a reason. *"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you..." (Philippians 1:3).*



Dwell Youth Ministry will not meet weekly in December, so that everyone can maximize time with their families and participate in all of the other church activities that month. An Epiphany Party is being planned for Sunday, January 7, 2024. We will meet in the Youth Room immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship for pizza and fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact Vicar Fry (254.800.5999 or VicarFry@splcwaco.com).

LWML @ SPLC

Christmas Blessings!!

A few Sundays ago I was approached by Florine Reinke. She had something to give me. She presented me with the newspaper clipping to the right announcing that the St. Paul Lutheran Church LWML group had officially begun. Florine thinks the start of the group would have been in 1956. In my mind I can see these beautiful, Christ-loving, mission minded women planning and forming our LWML. What a legacy they have provided for all the women of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waco, Texas. Also, I would love to hear Rev. Petersen's talk on Thanksgiving by Thanks-living. Thank you, Florine, for sharing this information.

May our SPLC LWML continue to grow and flourish.

Mrs. Alvin Lander To Head Church Group

Mrs. Alvin Lander was elected president of the newly organized women's group at St. Paul's Lutheran Church when it met at the home of Mrs. Albert Behringer, 1111 Gilliam Avenue. They named their group St. Paul Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Other officers elected were Mrs. Paul Linkugel, vice president; Mrs. Jim Swim, secretary; Mrs. Roy Kokel, treasurer; and Mrs. Jerry Prikryl, reporter.

Rev. Thomas E. Petersen led the topic discussion on "Thanks giving by Thanksliving."

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 of these members is available in the church office). We pray the Lord lay His healing hand upon them.
- † We celebrate with those who were joined in marriage, including: (a complete list of these members is available in the church office). We pray the Lord bless their unions and guide them in their new lives together.
- † We pray for those on hospice care, including: (a complete list of these members is available in the church office). We pray the Lord provide her comfort and peace.
- † We pray for all who are undergoing cancer diagnosis/treatment, including: (a complete list of these members 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 of these members 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 of these members 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 of these members 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 last month; including: (a complete list of these members is available in the church office). May God grant peace and comfort to these families, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- † We pray for those serving in our Armed Forces (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord keep them safe in their stead as they defend our freedom and safety.
- † We pray for the ongoing conflict in nation of Israel. We place this nation in Your hands, Lord, trusting in Your infinite mercy.

Please contact the church office if you, someone in your family, or a family friend is in need of prayer. Please keep the church office advised of the status of those you add to the prayer list, so that our list remains up-to-date. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 254.799.3211 or by email to: wecare@splcwaco.com.

**The Church Office will close for the Christmas Holidays
at noon on Dec. 22, 2023 and will not re-open
until Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023.**



ST. PAUL SENIOR ADULTS will come together following the **11:00 a.m. Advent Worship on Wednesday, December 13, 2023** for a Worship Service with Holy Communion, with a fellowship lunch following. All are invited to join us for this time of fellowship! *Desserts are appreciated for the luncheon.* If you have any questions, please call the church office (254.799.3211).

Servants for December 2023

Members are listed by initial and last name to protect their identity.

ACOLYTES:

12/3 D Sterriker (8:00am)
A West (10:30am)
12/6 K Gerik (7:30pm, Advent)
12/10 M Schmedthorst (8:00am)
R Tindle (10:30am)
12/13 B Petrich (7:30pm, Advent)
12/17 D Sterriker (8:00am)
E Williams (10:30am)
12/20 F Galler (7:30pm, Advent)
12/24 K Gerik (8:00am)
R Lassetter (10:30am)
12/25 F Galler (10:00am, Christmas)
12/31 M Schmedthorst (8:00am)
L Breton (10:30am)

LAY READERS

12/3 T Albers (8:00am)
MA Weaver (10:30am)
12/10 J Lamar (8:00am)
M Wortman (10:30am)
12/17 B Strickland (8:00am)
K Shelton (10:30am)
12/24 C Morgan (8:00am)
J Uptmore (10:30am)
12/31 J Kersten (8:00am)
D Galler (10:30am)

ELDER OF THE MONTH:

T Harrington

USHERS FOR WORSHIP

8am Worship: Group 11
10:30am Worship: Group 12
Advent, Dec. 6 Worship: Group 4
Choir Cantata, Dec. 9: Group 6
Advent, Dec. 13 Worship: Group 5
Advent, Dec. 20 Worship: Group 7
Christmas Day Worship: Group 10
The 2024 Usher Schedule has been placed in mailboxes

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS:

12/3 T Albers (8:00am)
J & C Banta (10:30am)
12/10 M & C Borchardt (8:00am)
K Bode (10:30am)
12/17 S Cone (8:00am)
D Bracciale (10:30am)
12/24 B Dube (8:00am)
P Dieterich (10:30am)
12/31 M Dutschmann (8:00am)
L Harrington (10:30am)

ALTAR FLOWERS:

12/3 R & P Price
12/6 D Tindle (Advent)
12/10 I Degner
12/13 J & V Donndelinger (Advent)
12/17 P Dieterich
12/20 J & V Donndelinger (Advent)
12/24 K & C Cohrt
12/25 C & J Morgan (Christmas Day)
12/31 R & L Turnbough

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

12/3 C Watkins (9:15am)
P Price (10:30am)
12/10 B & K Kubitza (9:15am)
D & P Reinke (10:30am)
12/17 J & R Reinke (9:15am)
J & R Reinke (10:30am)
12/24 J & R Reinke (9:15am)
J & R Reinke (10:30am)
12/31 J & R Reinke (9:15am)
J & R Reinke (10:30am)



for serving the Lord &
the St. Paul family!

Please join us for our Advent and Christmas Worship services:



Advent Worship, Wednesday, Dec. 6
11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Choir Cantata, Saturday, Dec. 9
6:00 p.m. (A lite reception will follow)

Advent Worship, Wednesday, Dec. 13
11:00 a.m.

(Holy Communion will be offered at the morning service, and our Senior Adults Fellowship Lunch will follow the service.)

7:30 p.m.

Advent Worship, Wednesday, Dec. 20
11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship, Dec. 24
8:00 a.m., Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m., Sunday Worship
6:00 p.m., Children's Program

Christmas Day Worship, Dec. 25
10:00 a.m.


(Holy Communion will be offered at this worship service.)

New Year's Eve Worship, Dec. 31
8:00 a.m., Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m., Sunday Worship

NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church will be implementing a new offering envelope system in January, 2024. An initial supply of six (6) new offering envelopes will be placed in each member's church mailbox by Sunday December 17, along with a sheet of labels which will identify the name and envelope number assigned to the member. Please place one label on each envelope when preparing your offering so your gift may be properly recorded. When your supply of labels is running low, please check the box on the envelope so that the church office may know to provide you with another sheet. Additional blank envelopes will be available for your use in locations across from the church mailboxes, as well as in the Narthex. A sample of the new envelope is shown below. This change is being made to reduce the amount of unused envelopes by our congregation's members and will result in a substantial cost savings.

If you have any questions about this new system, please contact Board of Stewardship Chair, Mark Borchardt (number available in the church office).

		Weekly Offering Envelope	
Place Name Sticker Here	OR		Envelope #: _____
			Name: _____
			Address: _____

Date: _____			
Amt: \$ _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check box to order more stickers!			



On Sunday, December 3, 2023 the BEACON Committee will collect gifts (new and wrapped in Christmas gift bags) for the Central Texas CareNet Pregnancy Center (monetary donations will also be accepted if that is your preference, checks should be made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church).

A few suggested donations include (but are not limited to):
Diapers, Wipes, Diaper bags, Clothing (newborn to 2T sizes), Similac Formula (green lid)

IMPACT OF DONATIONS:

All of CareNet's services are absolutely free to clients, so your support for operating expenses is essential for the ministry to frightened women and their families. Here are some of the potential ways your donations could serve women, men, and families...

- \$35/ month-Pregnancy test & counseling
- \$50 / month-Pregnancy Test & New Baby Bundle
- \$100/month-Pregnancy Test, New Baby Bundle & Ultrasound
- \$500/month-Pregnancy Test, New Baby Bundle, Crib & Monthly Coaching
- \$1,000 / month-All of the above plus housing for a family for one month

100% of all funds given to CareNet remain locally, to serve women and families in our community! Your love and support truly can change lives.

If you have any questions about this collection, please see Stephanie Mach.



CITIES OF BELLMEAD AND LACY LAKEVIEW CHRISTMAS PARADES

The Board of Outreach is planning to participate in the annual Lacy Lakeview Christmas Parade on Tuesday, Dec. 5; and also the 73rd Annual Bellmead Christmas Parade on Thursday, December 7.

We need volunteers to help construct the float for the parades and also to hand out candy at both parades. We also need around 4 wooden pallets to construct the float, if anyone has could donate or let us borrow.

Please contact the church office or Board of Outreach chair, Linda Turnbough (number available in the church office) if you have any questions.

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 for "Questions on The Gospel of Matthew" as we read through the first book of the New Testament.

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

This class is studying, *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. This Bible study works through all 39 books of the Old Testament and identifies crossovers between New Testament themes and ideas.

Ladies Bible Class (Conference Room)

This class is working through the study, *Promised Rest: Finding Peace in God's Promise*, by Michelle Diercks. As a Christian, you face the pressure and stressors of the world daily. You look for rest at every turn—rest from your job, family drama, personal struggles—but the only true rest can come from Christ. In this study you will find His promised rest by studying eight different names and characteristics of God.

Simply Loved, Nursery - Fourth Grade Students (classrooms)

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.'

XP3, Fifth - Eighth Grade Students (classrooms)

One Priority... "Love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-38 This curriculum has three relational motives: Move kids to LOVE GOD by inciting Wonder; Move kids to LOVE LIFE by provoking discovery; and Move kids to LOVE OTHERS by fueling passion.

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! The class will be led by college students, Seth Randolph and Travis Elmore. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Hesse.

Other Bible Study Opportunities:

Dwell Youth Ministry

Dwell Youth Ministry will not meet weekly in December, so that everyone can maximize time with their families and participate in all of the other church activities that month. An Epiphany Party is being planned for Sunday, January 7, 2024. We will meet in the Youth Room immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship for pizza and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Vicar Fry (254.800.5999 or VicarFry@splcwaco.com).

College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship

This group meets on Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the Rogers Engineering Building, room 207, at Baylor University. Please see Karen Shelton with any questions.

Ladies Bible Study Group in the Conference Room

This group meets in the Conference Room on the First and Third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. They are studying, "CHOSEN: A Study of Esther." In this study, see that God's presence is ever-abundant in your life, and that God gives you the courage to live fearlessly as Esther did. Learn the historical context of the Book of Esther to enrich your understanding of God's Word.

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

These classes meet every Wednesday. Students in grades 6-8 meet in the Youth Room at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Hesse, and students in 5th grade meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room with Deaconess Krahn. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Hesse.

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

Children & Youth Activities

CHILDREN'S ★ CHRISTMAS ★ PROGRAM DECEMBER 24, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

As the Music department puts together the 2023 Christmas Eve Program, we need to know who plans to participate. We are hopeful that **ALL** of the Sunday school children will be involved in telling the story of Jesus' birth! The songs will be taught on Sunday mornings. Therefore, we ask that **ALL CHILDREN** participating in the program attend Sunday School each week to learn the songs. These songs will also be available for download in MP3 format via a google drive link, or we can download them to a flash drive if provided by the parents. We encourage you to play the songs at home or in the car for your children to have additional practice.

Rehearsal dates and information is listed below. If you have any questions, please see Steve Randolph or Stephanie Boesche.

Rehearsal Dates:

- 🎄 **1st-8th Grade: Sunday, Dec. 3, 12:00-2:00pm**
(lunch provided)
- 🎄 **1st-8th Grade: Sunday, Dec. 10, 12:00pm-2:00pm**
(lunch provided)
- 🎄 **Nursery-8th Grade: Thursday, Dec. 21, 6:00-7:30pm**
(Christmas Party following)
- 🎄 **Christmas Eve Program:**
Sunday, December 24, 6:00pm

(Grades 6 and up are encouraged to join the instrumental ensemble.)



On Sunday, December 3, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the Children's Ministry will adorn a Christmas tree in the Sanctuary with the ornaments that Adult and Children's Sunday School classes crafted in November.

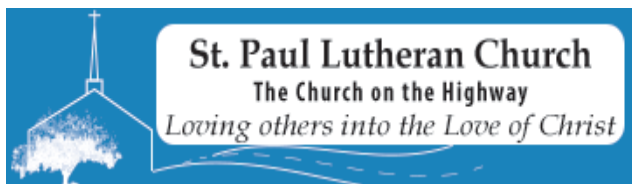


The Church Office will close for the Christmas Holiday at noon on Dec. 22, 2023 and will not re-open until Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023.



- ⇒ **December 3, 2023:** Ornament Blessing during worship
- ⇒ **December 3, 2023:** Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal, 12-2pm (lunch provided)
- ⇒ **December 9, 2023:** Annual Choir Christmas Cantata
- ⇒ **December 10, 2023:** Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal, 12-2pm (lunch provided)
- ⇒ **December 21, 2023:** Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal, 6-7:30pm (Sunday School Christmas Party following in the AFLC)
- ⇒ **December 24, 2023:** Christmas Eve Program, 6:00pm

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or see Angel Breton, Kimberly Vicha, Heather Hutchison, or Hannah Galler.



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Fax: 254.412.0529
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December 2023 Edition



www.splcwaco.com



**Please join us for our
2023 Christmas Cantata
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

**Presented by the Choirs of
St. Paul Lutheran Church**
1301 Hogan Lane
Bellmead, Texas 76705

