

# THE CHURCH ON THE HIGHWAY

*Where Life and Jesus Intersect*

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## St. Paul Lutheran Church

January 2020 Edition

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## From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Larry Krueger

[pastorkrueger@splcwaco.com](mailto:pastorkrueger@splcwaco.com)

### The Visit of the Wise Men

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’” (Ref. Matthew 2:1–2, ESV)

When you read the account of the visit of the wise men in Matthew chapter 2, do you ever stop to think about how these wise men knew to follow a star that would lead them to “he who has been born king of the Jews?” One could conclude these men were experts in astronomy or intelligent beyond reason in spiritual matters. Or, one would have to think God had been at work preparing for this time in history to grant them the wisdom to search for the newborn king. I happen to believe the latter.

So, what had God done in advance for this historic visit to occur? The answer most likely comes during a time that was actually one of the lowest periods in the history of the people of Israel...the time of exile to Babylon. The fall of Jerusalem is recorded in 2 Chronicles 36 where we read, in part, that the Lord “brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand...He [the king] took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia” (ESV).

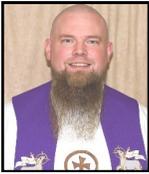
During this dark time in the history of Israel, God’s plan of salvation would shine and unfold in a new part of the world. The learnings of wise men would collide. The teachers of the Word of God from Jerusalem would encounter the scholarly wise men of the east. The world of scholarship has no boundaries. Undoubtedly, the prophecies of God were shared with the wise men of the east, who would have at the least a scholarly interest in the God of these exiles from Jerusalem.

*(article continues on page 9)*



**Sunday Worship**  
8am & 10:30am

**Bible Class/Sunday School**  
9:15am



## A Message From Our Associate Pastor

Rev. Matthew Hardaway

Email: [pastorhardaway@splcwaco.com](mailto:pastorhardaway@splcwaco.com)

### Jesus In The Psalms - Psalm 18:1-20 (ESV)

I love you, O LORD my strength, O LORD my stronghold, my crag, and my haven. My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge: you are worthy of praise. I will call upon the LORD, and so shall I be saved from my enemies. Psalm 18:1-3

If you don't have children in your home it is possible that you are unaware of a service now being offered by Disney. It is called DisneyPlus. And, it is all the rage. For \$7 a month you have access to almost the complete library of Disney films and television shows. Having cancelled our subscription to Pandora and Netflix, we decided to give it a go in December. As soon as we signed up there was an ecstatic response from the girls - "Disney Plus has all three Home Alone movies!!!"

I love the Home Alone movies - but that was not what I was most excited about. For me, it is the collection of Marvel movies that I can now watch. All of the block-buster action movies with all the great superheroes, from Captain America to Iron Man to The Hulk, and of course all of them gathered together as "The Avengers." Hands down, this anthology is worth the monthly cost alone!

Reading the first twenty verses of Psalm 18, I can't help but think how they could be the script for a block-buster action movie! "The breakers of death rolled over me... the cords of hell entangled me... I called upon the LORD... he heard my voice from his heavenly dwelling... smoke rose from his nostrils and a consuming fire out of his mouth... he parted the heavens and came down with a storm cloud under his feet. He mounted on cherubim and flew; he swooped on the wings of the wind. He wrapped darkness about him, he made dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion. From the brightness of his presence... burst hailstones and coals of fire. The LORD thundered out of heaven.... He loosed his arrows and scattered them; he hurled thunderbolts and routed them.... He reached down from on high and grasped me; he drew me out of great waters. He delivered me from my strong enemies and from those who hated me...but the LORD was my support!"

No offense to Marvel - but this Psalm makes Avengers: Endgame seem tame by comparison!

Not only that, David is writing about his actual experience in life - this is not a made up story from a comic book series. All these events actually happened! And through it all, David is not looking to a collection of imaginary superhero's as His source of protection, comfort and strength - he is looking to the author and perfecter of his faith and yours - Jesus Christ our Lord.



## A Message From Our Deaconess

Dcs. Suzanne Krahn

Email: [dcskrahn@splcwaco.com](mailto:dcskrahn@splcwaco.com)

January is commonly known for National Blood Donation Month. Have you donated blood lately, or ever? According to the American Red Cross Association and Blood Services, being a donor can and will save precious lives that are in imminent and serious danger from injury or illness.

There are several different types of blood donations. Giving the right type of blood donation – based on you blood type and patient needs – helps ensure the best use of you valuable contribution. Here are some things to consider when determining how you can have the most impact.

**Whole Blood Donation:** Whole blood is the most flexible type of donation. It can be transfused in its original form, or used to help multiple people when separated into its specific components of red cells, plasma, and platelets.

Who it helps?: Whole blood is frequently given to trauma patients and people undergoing surgery.

Time it takes: about 1 hour      Ideal blood type: all blood types

**Power Red Donation:** During a Power Red donation, you give a concentrated dose of red cells, the part of your blood used every day for those needing transfusions as part of their care. This type of donation uses an automated process that separates your red blood cells from the other blood components, and then safely and comfortably returns your plasma and platelets to you. With just a little extra time at your appointment, you can donate more red cells and increase your impact on patients in need.

Who it helps?: Red cells from a Power Red donation are typically given to trauma patients, newborns, and emergency transfusions during birth, people with sickle cell anemia, and anyone suffering blood loss.

Time it takes: about 1.5 hours      Ideal blood type: O+, O-, A-, B-

**Platelet Donation:** Platelets are tiny cells in your blood that form clots and stop bleeding. Platelets are most often used by cancer patients and others facing life-threatening illnesses and injuries. In platelet donation, an apheresis machine collects your platelets along with some plasma, returning your red cells and most of the plasma back to you. A single donation of platelets can yield several transfusable units, whereas it takes about 5 whole blood donations to make a single transfusable unit of platelets. Platelets are collected at Red Cross donation centers only, and are not collected at blood drives.

Who it helps?: Platelets are a vital element of cancer treatments and organ transplant procedures, as well as other surgical procedures.

Time it takes: about 2.5-3 hours      Ideal blood type: A+, A-, B+, O+, AB+, and AB-

**Plasma Donation:** During an AB Elite donation, you give plasma, a part of your blood used to treat patients in emergency situations, AB plasma can be given to anyone regardless of their blood type. Plasma is collected through an automated process that separates plasma from other components, then safely and comfortably returns your red blood cells and platelets to you. AB Elite maximizes your donation and takes just a few minutes longer than donating blood. Plasma is collected at select Red Cross donation centers.

Who it helps?: AB Plasma is used in emergency and trauma situations to help stop bleeding.

Time it takes: about 1 hour & 15 minutes.      Ideal blood types: AB+, AB-

May God Bless your coming in and going out.

Resources: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>



**“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;  
He delivers them from all their troubles.” Psalm 34:17**

## *Lord, Hear Our Prayers:*

- † We pray for continued healing for all those who have suffered physical problems in the last month, including: (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord lay His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who struggle with ongoing health concerns, including: (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord keep His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who are home-bound, in nursing care or assisted living facilities, including: (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord give them comfort and peace with their living situation.
- † We pray for those who have lost loved ones in the last month. (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord give them comfort in their time of sorrow.
- † 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 those serving in the mission field ... may God continue to bless and keep them safe as they minister to the world as an extended outreach of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waco, Texas.

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](mailto:wecare@splcwaco.com).



# Classes for All Ages

**Join us for Sunday morning Bible Classes at 9:15am each week:**

## **Adult Bible Class, in the Family Center**

This group will be starting a new topic in January.

## **Men's Bible Class, in the N4 Classroom**

This group is studying various topics, applicable to everyday life; utilizing archived sermons by Rev. Walter Albers.

## **Ladies Bible Class, in the Conference Room**

This group will begin a new study beginning on Sunday, January 19. The new study, "*Bless These Lips: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal*," examines things we say that get in the way of our relationships with God and with others. Each chapter draws on lip product analogies and uses humor, anecdotes, and observations to introduce Scripture passages that address common behaviors and attitudes. The study centers on Scripture, for it is God's Word and His Holy Spirit that provide everything needed to develop lovely, God-pleasing lips.

## **Nursery - Kindergarten (classrooms), Grades 1-6 in Parish Hall & classrooms**

These classes use the BUZZ curriculum which has a unique theme every quarter that teaches a mix of classic and uncommon Bible stories that kids haven't heard before—which impacts their faith and changes their lives. Music time uses song to reinforce the lessons and allows children to share their faith through occasional performances for the congregation.

## **Grades 7-12, in the Youth Room**

This age group is going through a tech-based Bible study.

## ***Other Bible Study Opportunities:***

## **Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Class, in the Parish Hall**

This group works through selected studies, meeting every Tuesday morning at 6:30 a.m. They will break during the Christmas holidays, returning on January 7, 2020.

## **College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship**

This group will resume in the Spring semester.

## **Ladies Wednesday Morning Bible Class, in the Conference Room**

This group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month for a time of Bible study.

## **Tuesday Evening Ekklesia Bible Study**

This group will resume meeting soon. Watch for details on day/location in upcoming bulletins/newsletters.

## **Sunday Evening Bible Studies**

These groups meet on the first and second Sunday of the month in host homes for a time of Bible Study and fellowship.

## **Youth Confirmation/Catechesis Training**

These classes meet on Wednesday evenings and will resume meeting on January 8, 2020.

- Confirmation Classes for 7/8 Grade, 6:30-7:45pm
- Midweek School for 5/6 Grade, 6:30-7:30pm

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

# January 2020

Sunday Worship Hours: 8:00am and 10:30am  
 Sunday School/Bible Class: 9:15am

Elder of the Month: C. Morgan

**HOLY COMMUNION** is celebrated during worship  
 on the **FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY** of each month.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
			<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> 7:00am Lawn/Building Maintenance	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>																																																	
<b>5</b> 2nd Sun. after Christmas 5:30pm 1st Sun. Home B.S. (host: M/M David Parrott in the PH)  † Holy Communion	<b>6</b> 10:00am Quilting (PH)	<b>7</b> 6:30am Men's B.S. 10:00am Tri-Cities Ministries 5:00pm HSE Class	<b>8</b> 11:00am Seniors Adults Worship 12:45pm LWML (CR) 6:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation (grades 5-8)	<b>9</b> 7:00am Lawn/Building Maintenance 5:00pm HSE Class	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 4:00pm K. Lamar (PH)																																																	
<b>12</b> 1st Sun. after Epiphany 5:30pm 2nd Sun. Home B.S. (host: M/M Vince Neuhaus)	<b>13</b> 10:00am Quilting (PH) 6:00pm Men's Club (restaurant TBD) 6:00pm SPJST Meeting (PH)	<b>14</b> 6:30am Men's B.S. 10:00am Tri-Cities Ministries 5:00pm HSE Class	<b>15</b> 9:30am Ladies B.S. (CR) 6:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation (grades 5-8)	<b>16</b> 7:00am Lawn/Building Maintenance 9:00am Ct. 18 Pastor Meeting (Our Savior Whitney) 5:00pm HSE Class	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>																																																	
<b>19</b> 2nd Sun. after Epiphany 10:00am Blood Drive (parking lot) 12:00pm Youh Skating & Laser Tag Event (Skate Country, Bellmead)	<b>20</b> 10:00am Quilting (PH) 4:00pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Bd. Directors (PH)	<b>21</b> 6:30am Men's B.S. 10:00am Tri-Cities Ministries 5:00pm HSE Class	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation (grades 5-8)	<b>23</b> 7:00am Lawn/Building Maintenance 5:00pm HSE Class	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Tri-Cities Banquet (FC)																																																	
<b>26</b> 3rd Sun. after Epiphany	<b>27</b> 10:00am Quilting (PH)	<b>28</b> 6:30am Men's B.S. 10:00am Tri-Cities Ministries 5:00pm HSE Class	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation (grades 5-8)	<b>30</b> 7:00am Lawn/Building Maintenance 5:00pm HSE Class	<b>31</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </table>	February 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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**B.S. = Bible Study**      **FC = Family Center**      **PH = Parish Hall**      **YR = Youth Room**      **CR = Conference Room**  
**LWML = Lutheran Women's Missionary League**      **TBD = To Be Determined**      **HCM = Health Care Ministry**  
**[Facilities available for use by MEMBERS with a signed usage agreement and fee to offset utility costs]**

# Servants in God's House for January 2020

Please note that these are listed by first and last initial only, in order to protect the privacy of our members.

## Acolytes 8:00am Worship

Jan. 5 - J H  
Jan. 12 - E M  
Jan. 19 - T L  
Jan. 26 - E A

## 10:30am Worship

Jan. 5 - K T  
Jan. 12 - B C  
Jan. 19 - C T  
Jan. 26 - C W

## Nursery Volunteers 8:00am Worship

Jan. 5 - L W  
Jan. 12 - J L  
Jan. 19 - K S  
Jan. 26 - S P

## 10:30am Worship

Jan. 5 - P & D E  
Jan. 12 - P & K G  
Jan. 19 - J U  
Jan. 26 - J & R R

## Altar Guild, Group 4

S M  
K V  
L T  
B K

## Flower Chart

S L

## Altar Flowers

Jan. 5 - D & K S  
Jan. 12 - **OPEN**  
Jan. 19 - **OPEN**  
Jan. 26 - F & D K

## Sunday Morning Greeters 8:00am Worship

Jan. 5 - M & A P  
Jan. 12 - JH/EG  
Jan. 19 - L & J S  
Jan. 26 - B D

## 10:30am Worship

Jan. 5 - L O  
Jan. 12 - D & C M  
Jan. 19 - W E  
Jan. 26 - G & K B

## Elders of the Congregation

R F  
T J  
T H  
D M  
C M, Elder of the Month  
B S

## Ushers for the Month 8:00am Worship, Group 7

R S, Jr., Hd.  
H P, Asst.  
B S  
H S  
L S  
M P

## 10:30am Worship, Group 8

V N, Hd.  
P P, Asst.  
D P  
D T  
D G  
G H

*Usher's, please note that an updated and final 2020 schedule has been placed in member mailboxes. Any questions regarding the final schedule should be directed to the chairman, Don Savage.*



**THE 2020 ALTAR FLOWER CHART** has been posted. If your family would like to place flowers on the altar to celebrate a special occasion or in remembrance of a loved one, please sign up on the flower chart in the Narthex as you enter the sanctuary. *There are several dates open through-out the year, including January!* Contact the church office with questions.



### **GUATEMALA, FEBRUARY 2020:**

If anyone has an interest in going on the Guatemala Mission Trip in February 8-15, 2020 or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Hardaway no later than January 12, 2020.

**THE 2020 CHURCH BUDGET** has been approved and finalized by the Board of Directors. If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office. If you should have any questions regarding the budget, please contact Congregation President, Bill Dube.

**2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES** have been placed in the mailboxes. If you did not receive offering envelopes and would like to be issued a box, please contact the church by phone (254.799.3211) or by email (wecare@splcwaco.com). Please be aware that the church only records donations that are received through offering envelopes or the online giving program.

## **Tri-Cities Ministries Winter Banquet**

**Saturday, January 25, 2020**

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**St. Paul Family Center**

Come celebrate over 30 years of Christian service in our community with our Silent Auction, Chili Supper (provided by the St. Paul Men's Club), and Dessert.

*Free Attendance - Donations Encouraged*  
To aid in planning, please RSVP by Jan. 19 with TCM Director Travis (254.721.1788).



***Pastor Krueger continued from page 1***

Most likely, the visit of the wise men occurred because the God of all wisdom had centuries before a that “he who has been born king of the Jews” was indeed the very Son of God born to be the Savior of the world. God had so ordered the events of history so these wise men would then “come to worship him.”

You see, God is always at work to bring about His purpose for this world. His ultimate purpose is that all would “be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). These would come to worship Jesus. In Baptism, we are made His children. So, we, too, may worship Jesus. His world of grace collides with our world of sin. The good news for those who believe is that grace wins in Jesus. Our absence of godly wisdom is replaced with the “wisdom that comes down from above” (ref. James 3:17)

So, today, we can be “wise men” coming to worship Jesus and fulfilling the works “which God prepared in advance for us to do” (ref. Ephesians 2:10). May God grant us such blessing in this New Year. *By the way, about the verse that could lead wise men to follow a star, check out Numbers 24:17.*

Love God and love your neighbor,  
Pastor Krueger



**Mite Box**

**Sunday  
Jan. 5, 2020**

LWML continues having regular Mite Box Sundays each quarter (January, April, July, and October). Please bring the contents of your mite box and place it in the display located in Mission Central in the church foyer. We suggest that you place your donations in a Ziploc bag. This way you can keep your mite box. Don't have a mite box? You can pick up one at our display.

Your mite box funds mission grants in Texas, the US and globally. One ministry receiving a mission grant is Lutheran Braille Workers. They have been providing God's Word to the visually impaired since 1943, utilizing the New International Version of the Bible for the past 25 years. The funds received will assist in the cost of the production of zinc plates for each Braille Work Center along with producing the ESV Bible in large print.

**Directory Updates**

**Updated information is  
available in the church office.**

Please contact the church office if your contact information should be updated and shared in an upcoming newsletter.



December 4, 2019

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1301 Hogan Lane  
Waco, TX 76705

Dear Friends in Christ at St. Paul Lutheran Church:

Greetings in Jesus' name!

As we enter into the solemn season of Advent, I consider the ministry of Jesus, the head of the church and our chief Shepherd, and it brings to mind exceptional servants of Jesus who help advance the ministry of the Texas District. Among these key individuals is your pastor who carries out the ministry of District Secretary.

As Secretary of the District, Pastor Krueger is a representative of the District President and of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the congregations of Texas District. He serves not only in the duties appointed to him by Synodical and District bylaws, but is a trusted advisor to me and as a member the Board of Directors.

I thank God that He has blessed Pastor Krueger with wonderful gifts for ministry, and I thank Pastor Krueger for being willing to share those gifts with the larger church. But mostly I am writing to thank you for being willing to share your pastor with the rest of us, for allowing him time to attend special meetings, and for your love and care for him and his family.

I hope you will continue to support Pastor Krueger in this special role, and I pray that God will continue to bless our partnership in ministry.

Gratefully yours,

*Rev. Michael Newman*  
Rev. Michael Newman  
President

Cc: Rev. Larry Krueger

# Children & Youth Activities

email: [board\\_of\\_ed@splcwaco.com](mailto:board_of_ed@splcwaco.com)



## PIONEER CAMP AT CAMP LONE STAR:

Pioneer Camp (*Alpha* - ages 8-12; *Omega* - ages 13-18) at Camp Lone Star for St. Paul campers will be June 21-26, 2020. This year, the church is again covering the cost of camp for St. Paul campers. Therefore, St. Paul campers can attend camp at NO COST to them. A \$100 deposit will be required for each camper to guarantee a spot. After the camper actually attends camp, the deposit will be refunded. The \$100 deposit and camper pre-registration form should be submitted to Patrick or Darby Ehlers as soon as possible to guarantee a spot, as they fill up quickly. (It is recommended to submit the payment/forms no later than January 31st, but spots could definitely fill up before that date.) Forms are available outside the Sunday School office, or email Cindy at the church office.

For families with younger children who may not be ready to attend camp on their own, there are also Family Camp opportunities on other dates (weekends). This is a great way for younger kids to get a taste of camp without having to go it alone the first time.

If you have any questions about camp, please contact Patrick or Darby Ehlers (contact information available in the church office).



## For Youth and Children of ALL Ages

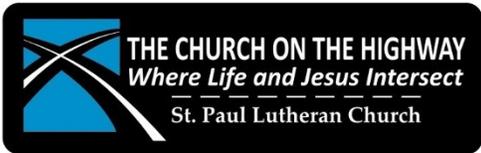
All are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and laughter on Sunday, January 19, 2020. We will begin with lunch in the Youth Room immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Then we will caravan over to Skate Country (Loop 340, Bellmead) for skating, laser tag, and fun with friends until 2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Tucker (contact information available in the church office).

## SAVE THE DATE

- 🔊 Skate Country - 1/19/2020
- 🔊 Camp Lone Star deadline, 1/31/2020

If you have questions, would like to volunteer to help with events, or have ideas to share for possible future events...please stop by the Sunday School office.



1301 Hogan Lane • Waco, Texas 76705

Phone: 254.799.3211

Fax: 254.412.0529

[www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2020 Edition

