



St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Church on the Highway

Loving others into the Love of Christ

July 2025 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

As I am writing this, our nation just celebrated the 250th Birthday of the Army. This is also the month we celebrate our nation's 249th Birthday. These are noteworthy milestones and worthy of our celebration and recognition because both the Army and our nation have provided a context where we freely worship Jesus and share him with others. In fact, we probably take most of our freedoms for granted. It is easy to do so unless you lived some where that you would be deprived of them.

This Summer we are seeing a lot of travel in the life of our congregation. We have two different youth trips. The Houston trip last month was a special time of pouring into our younger youth the precious truth they are created for God's purpose. The youth trip later this month is the triennial National Youth Gathering. Our Director of Youth and Family Ministry along with Hannah Galler, our youth, as well as leaders and youth from our sister congregations will make their way to New Orleans. The National Youth Gathering is a carefully programmed event by the LCMS National Office of Youth Ministry. You can be sure that when our youth return home, they will have grown in their faith and relationships with others. The National Youth Gathering serves as a mountain top experience for many youths growing in their faith.

I only mention the 2 official trips. Many of our church families have other travels in store as well. Some of our families (my wife and I included) are transitioning to new homes. Some are traveling to see other family members. Others are traveling for family vacations. Still, some in our church family are not planning to go anywhere. In all of this, Jesus reminds us, "I am with you always to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:30)

It is a tremendous comfort that Jesus will be with us in every context. Many of the activities at church will still remain. I look forward to hearing about your adventures. I look forward to seeing you return to worship in the midst of your travels. I get overjoyed when you are able to bring Jesus to someone new in your travels or right at home in your community.

We are a church on the highway. Therefore, we must always keep the love of Christ moving to others. Have a blessed Summer.

Pastor Hesse



A Message From Our Youth & Family Director

Josh McNamara, D.C.E.

Email: FamilyMinistry@splcwaco.com

"Gearing Up For The Gathering"

Over the course of the last year our youth group students have been eagerly awaiting our upcoming trip to New Orleans for the 2025 LMCS Youth Gathering. Many of you have helped with our preparations for this upcoming trip. Some of you have been lifting us up in your thoughts and prayers as our youth prepare to grow in their faith with Christ while they are at the Gathering. Others have helped shuttle students between St. Paul and Trinity Badger Ranch for our monthly Pre-Gathering Bible Study sessions. Others of you have even graciously helped contribute to this trip financially for us and/or you have volunteered your time and your vehicle to help get us to and from the airport safely.

Regardless of where you fall on the spectrum of involvement for the upcoming LCMS Youth Gathering, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping to support our youth as they prepare to go to New Orleans. These students will have incredible opportunities to grow in their faith over the course of the upcoming Gathering, as they attend sessions that will encourage and stretch them, as they engage with the local community as we prepare to be the hands and feet of Jesus during our upcoming off-site servant event; and they will be enriched over the course of this multi-day Gathering as we spend time together in worship and in God's Word.

The LCMS Youth Gathering is truly a unique experience, one that numerous young Lutherans claim has helped to deepen their faith and to help shape them into the people they have grown into as they reach their adult years. As unique and powerful of an experience as the Gathering is, it is meant to be so much more than simply a "youth trip" or what some might consider to be just a "spiritual mountain-top experience." Yes, our youth will encounter God in powerful ways over the course of the Gathering, but it is what we do with this knowledge and with these experiences when we return home that will help us to love others into the saving and redemptive love of Jesus.

Before we leave for the LCMS Youth Gathering, we will have a commissioning for all of our Gathering participants and chaperones during our worship services on Sunday, July 13th. I invite all of you to join us as we support all of our Gathering attendees with our love and prayers as they will be commissioned to head to New Orleans.

A few weeks after our return from the Youth Gathering, our students will have the opportunity to share with our congregation the things that they will learn and experience while they are at the LCMS Youth Gathering. I invite you to attend this special time of sharing during our Bible study hour on August 10th, as you will get to hear from the very hearts of our students what an incredible impact this Gathering will have on them. This Gathering Recap opportunity will be able to give you a small glimpse as to what our students will experience in New Orleans for our upcoming LCMS Youth Gathering and how they plan to continue growing in their faith on the back-end of the Gathering. We look forward to seeing what God will do in New Orleans as we learn more about how we can continue to run the race that has been set before us with endurance.

VBS SURVEY: We had an amazing time during our recent True North VBS program! As great as it was, we want to keep making our VBS program even better here at St. Paul. Consider sharing your thoughts with us about our recent True North VBS program through this super-short survey.



VBS Survey

July Blessings from St. Paul LWML. First of all, Thanks for your support for our annual Father's Day Bake Sale. The proceeds will help fund our local mission projects.

In May we were able to bless LaVega Elementary teachers and staff with 100 homemade cookie boxes topped with a Prayer Pocket. Our LWML ladies baked over 600 cookies to fill the boxes. LWML is very thankful that the Quilting Ladies were generous with their time and resources in making the Prayer Pocket Squares. LaVega elementary principal, Laura Klander, expressed the elementary's gratitude for the treat, which coincided with Teacher Appreciation Week.

In Christian love,
Jacqueline Uptmore



LWML Mite Box Sunday



July 6, 2025

LWML will continue having regular Mite Box Sundays, the first Sunday of 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 in the church foyer.**

As always, all monies collected will be sent to LWML Texas District for Mission Grants. Check out our Mission Grants at LWMLTXDist.org.

Thank you for your participation! If you have any questions, please contact the church office or one of our LWML members.

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 any time.

ST. PAUL SENIOR ADULTS will meet **on Wednesday, July 9, 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).

*The Church Office will be closed
on Friday, July 4, 2025,
in observance of
Independence Day.*

We will return on Monday, July 7, at 7:00 a.m.



Those who are scheduled to Serve at SPLC for July 2025

Listed by Initial and last name to protect their identity.

ELDER OF THE MONTH:

T Filer

ALTAR FLOWERS:

7/6 R & L Turnbough
7/13 J Kersten
7/20 J & J Uptmore
7/27 H & A Bush

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS:

7/6 J Nawara (8:00am)
J & B Schlemmer (10:30am)
7/13 B & P Schulze (8:00am)
J Hahn (10:30am)
7/20 M Shelton (8:00am)
K Goolsby (10:30am)
7/27 J Springman (8:00am)
B, M, & H Strickland (10:30am)

ACOLYTES:

7/6 D Sterriker (8:00am)
A West (10:30am)
7/13 K Gerik (8:00am)
B Kersten-Sutton (10:30am)
7/20 M Schmedthorst (8:00am)
E Tindle (10:30am)
7/27 B Petrich (8:00am)
E Williams (10:30am)

LAY READERS

7/6 J Nawara (8:00am)
H Strickland (10:30am)
7/13 T Albers (8:00am)
M Weaver (10:30am)
7/20 M Borchardt (8:00am)
Bo Dube (10:30am)
7/27 B Strickland (8:00am)
D Bracciale (10:30am)

USHERS FOR WORSHIP

8:00am Worship: Group 5

R Shelton, H Pick, H Strickland,
L Springman, M Perry, D Tynes, C Morgan

10:30am Worship: Group 6

D Reinke, R Randolph, S Reinke,
D Galler, D Bood, T Randolph

NURSERY PARTNERS

7/6 J Lassetter (9:00am)
S Cone (10:15am)
7/13 M & C Borchardt (9:00am)
J Petrich (10:15am)
7/20 W Ehlers (9:00am)
A Gilchrest (10:15am)
7/27 K Kubitza (9:00am)
J Petrich (10:15am)

***If you would be interested in partnering with
our Nursery Ministry, please contact Josh
McNamara if you are led to serve.***

Email: FamilyMinistry@splcwaco.com

Office: 254.799.3211, ext. 103



**THE LORD
OUR GOD
WE WILL SERVE,
AND HIM WE
WILL OBEY.**
JOSHUA 24:24, NRSV



School Supplies Collection

August 3, 2025

We will be collecting supplies that will benefit the LaVega Primary and Elementary schools for the 2025-2026 school year. LaVega ISD is extremely grateful for the blessing and generosity from our congregation over the years! This year they request school supplies as well as other basic items listed below. (A complete school supplies list can be found at the Sanctuary and Sunday School entrances beginning on Sunday, July 6)

Girls and Boys shoes

Snacks (goldfish, animal crackers, teddy grahams, etc.)

Plain Shirts up to sizes 3T to 12 (no graphic designs please)

Plain Shorts up to sizes 3T to 12 (no graphic designs please)

Please feel free to help with these needs as you are able. If anyone is interested in applying for a Thrivent Action Team to purchase these items, we would ask that you only order children's t-shirts and those be donated as well. If you need help applying for an action team or have questions on this process, please contact Brandon Kubitza at (254) 749-1701.

***Please pray for the students, teachers, and staff
as they prepare for a new school year.***



All students are encouraged to bring their backpacks with them on Sunday, August 3, for a special blessing for the 2025-2026 school year.

We will have this blessing during our Sunday morning worship.

Children & Youth Activities



Please remember in your prayers our students and leaders attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA July 18-23!

We will share updates on the Youth and Church Facebook pages, if you would like to follow along!

There will also be a special presentation from those who attended the National Youth Gathering on Sunday, August 10, during the 9:15 a.m. Bible class hour in the Albers Family Life Center.

upcoming events

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT(S):

- ♦ **July 18-23:** National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENT(S):

- ♦ Fun Events are being planned - watch for details coming soon!

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.



BLOOD Drive

Receive a
weekend tote.*



Sunday, July 27, 2025
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Schedule an
appointment



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

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 wrap up our study, *Patient Urgency*: a 5 week study exploring the Gospel of Mark and how the Holy Spirit uses disciples as a map, means, and a model to "fish" for other people. We will begin a new summer series on the book of Colossians on July 13.

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 continuing the study, *I Will*, by Thom S. Rainer. Everyday we are faced with the needs of those around us. Emotional. Physical. Spiritual. What are we to do about it? Are the problems for our pastors to address, or is there also a way for the church member to make an impact that will last. This study will offer nine simple traits that all church members can incorporate into their life no matter their background, stage of life, or sense of capability. You can do it ... Now is the time to stand up and say you will!

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 - Fifth 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.'

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:

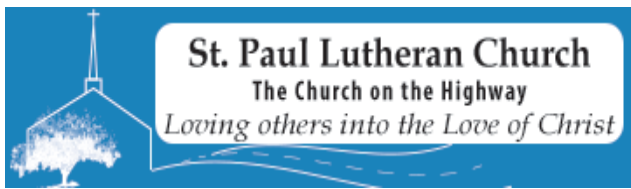
College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship (LDLT - Lutherans Doing Life Together)

The LDLT group will resume their Monday night fellowship and Bible study on August 25. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Shelton or Pastor Hesse.

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

Classes for grades 5-8 will resume meeting in the Fall, watch for more details.

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



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Waco, Texas 76705
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www.splcwaco.com

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