



# Messenger

December 2022

Newsletter of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange TX

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*“Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.”<sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” Mark 13:35*

We will celebrate the Season of Advent at St. Paul Lutheran Church from November 27 until Christmas Eve, December 24. For four Sundays we will light the candles on the Advent Wreath and pray for the coming of Christ.

You have probably heard Advent described as a time of *waiting* for Jesus Christ, but that is not Advent. *Waiting* is not what the people of God did before Christ was born and it is not the Christian message for today. Jesus says, “Keep awake.” Preparing, anticipating, being anxious, doing something – those are the lives lived in Advent.

Advent is a time of preparing for God to be born as Jesus Christ – taking on flesh and blood and living in this world. Jesus doing good things, teaching, showing people God loves them. He is still taking on flesh and blood and living in this world as we dedicate ourselves to his ministry. When God comes into our lives, and we do good things, when we learn more about God's word, when we show people God loves them – it is Christmas all over again. It is Jesus being born in the world and doing things among his people.

We live our lives in Advent. The first Advent began when God promised his people a Messiah would come. Now we live our lives watching for every chance to bring God's love into the world; to set God's will to work in all that we do.

It is a great joy to have so much to do, to bring God's will to other people, sharing the good news that Christ is born. And we rejoice in the preparation, the work that is done by showing God's love being born in human form – *our* human forms – and growing up to love the world.

*Pastor Sappenfield*



## 2022 CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 – 7 p.m. Candlelight Services with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 – 9 a.m. Services with Holy Communion

Greetings!

Your church council met Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. As Christians, we are entering the Advent Season which is the beginning of our worship calendar and council is preparing for the beginning of our fiscal year as well. We are always mindful that the business part of our duties supports the numerous generous ministries here at Saint Paul. We should all look ahead to this season with a renewed spirit to share our talents to the glory of our Lord and Savior. The following topics were discussed and acted upon.

A job performance evaluation was shared with council by Pastor Sappenfield for Ruth Poncik, our office administrator. The council agreed whole-heartedly with not only the glowing remarks in the evaluation but also the recommendation of a compensation increase which will be voted upon by the congregation as part of the budget at the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting.

A report from the Property Committee was given with updates from last month's projects with the addition of the need for repainting of the handicapped spaces and future consideration of paving the north side parking lot.

Pastor shared during his report that Saint Paul had an average attendance of 85 for the month of October.

During the Office Manager's Report Ruth shared that she was contacted by the MS 150 requesting use of the building in April 2023. Also, Ruth wanted everyone to be aware that if members purchased LYO Stock Shares those contributions cannot be added to giving statements since those funds do not filter through the General Fund. VBS has been scheduled for June 25-30 and will be half day.

Council voted to move one of the CDs in the amount of \$20,000 from the Mission Investment Fund in Chicago to a local investment advisor as it matures on December 27<sup>th</sup>. This would ensure a significantly higher return on the investment. As two other CD's mature one in January and another in May they will be added to these funds, and all be placed into another CD locally at that time.

An Audit Committee Report was shared which to this point reviewed insurance policies and LYO accounts and practices. As a result, council voted to move the LYO checking account from Sunflower Bank to Prosperity Bank where the general fund exists. From this point forward there will be two signatures required on all checks and one of those must be a member of the Executive Committee.

Council joyously voted to accept 9 new members.

Council voted to support a Reverse Advent Calendar benefitting the AMEN ministry. It was explained money donations are always welcome and appreciated, but AMEN is having difficulty purchasing from the Central Texas Food Bank and even from Brenham Wholesale so giving in this way will ensure immediate needs are met. It was also reported that Russell and Rebecca Dittrich will now serve as Saint Paul liaisons to AMEN. We thank Mannie for her many years of service in this position and look forward to seeing her smiling face at AMEN as a volunteer.

The council wishes your family a wonderful season of preparation for the coming of our King. We look forward to spending time together as a congregation of believers and invite you all to join us either during weekend worship here or online.

Shalom,

Karen Bellue, council president

## Let's try a "REVERSE **ADVENT CALENDAR**"

Why not benefit AMEN with a REVERSE **ADVENT CALENDAR**? Most of us are familiar with the Advent Calendar when you open a door each day in December and get a prize like a piece of candy or small trinket. This concept is an Advent Calendar in reverse in that you will be GIVING something each day of the month of December from December 1 to December 24.

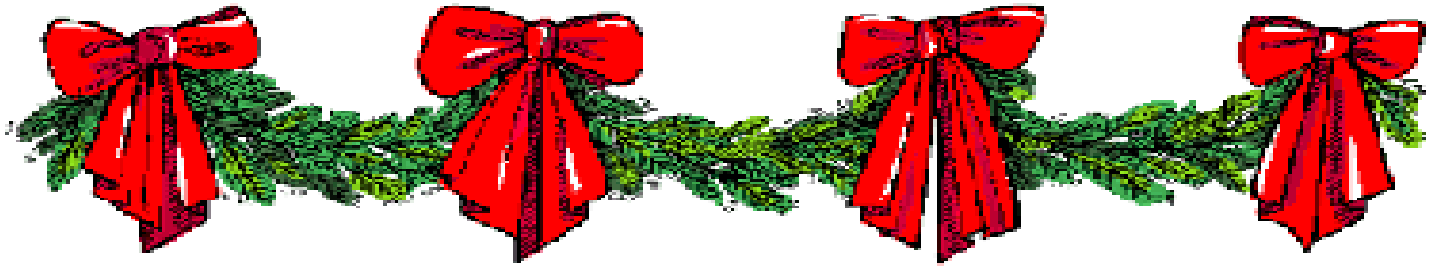
The reverse page details food items – one per day – for December 1 – 24. The items are separated by week to make a little easier to shop. Office manager Ruth Poncik took the list to HEB to get an idea of the cost and ease of purchasing. Most of the items are in 2 or 3 rows in the local HEB. She purchased the HEB brands or least expensive items available and the smallest size of the items on the shopping list. (except the peanut butter as she grabbed the big size out of habit as they like peanut butter!). The total cost was \$32.85 for all the items. Then she took the box of items to AMEN and had the box weighed. It was a total of 26 lbs.

AMEN staff commented that there is a need for all the items in the box and a need for actual food at this time. Money donations are always welcome and appreciated, but AMEN is having difficulty purchasing from the Central Texas Food Bank and even from Brenham Wholesale. The box of food purchased will be displayed in the Narthex thru the end of the month.

If you choose to participate in this project, you are welcome to drop the items here at St. Paul and they will be delivered to and weighed weekly at AMEN. Ruth will keep a running total of the amount collected for the month of December.

This is an opportunity for a teaching moment for children and grandchildren. Ruth took her granddaughters shopping and made it a type of scavenger hunt to find the items and then cost compare vs size. Then she explained why they were doing this and what was going to happen to the food they were purchasing. And thus the teaching moment becomes a lesson learned in giving to others.

Merry Christmas to all our AMEN clients and volunteers!



## **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX  
THE WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS THE ITEMS  
WILL BE DONATED TO AMEN

December 1 -	box of cereal	
December 2 -	peanut butter	
December 3 -	stuffing mix	Week 1
December 4 -	boxed potatoes	
December 5 -	macaroni and cheese	
December 6 -	canned fruit	
December 7 -	canned tomatoes	
December 8 -	canned tuna	
December 9 -	dessert mix	
December 10 -	jar of applesauce	Week 2
December 11 -	canned sweet potatoes	
December 12 -	cranberry sauce	
December 13 -	canned beans	
December 14 -	box of crackers	
December 15 -	package of rice	
December 16 -	package of oatmeal	
December 17 -	package of pasta	Week 3
December 18 -	spaghetti sauce	
December 19 -	chicken noodle soup	
December 20 -	tomato soup	
December 21 -	can corn	
December 22 -	can mixed vegetables	
December 23 -	can carrots	
December 24 -	can green beans	Week 4



Welcome the following to St. Paul who were received to membership on  
Sunday, November 20, 2022.

John Acosta and Lynnette Boyd

Chad and Kylie Childs

Ken and Linda Diers

Boots Jewell

Leonard Schulze and Wendy McCredie

### POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

We will order 20 regular size plants and 2 Altar arrangements.

You may donate in memory of or in honor of loved ones and your name will be listed in the bulletin. **Please turn in this completed form by December 16.**

If you'd like to make a donation toward the poinsettias, please do so (you pick the donation amount). The regular size poinsettias can be picked up (by anyone that wants them) after the service on Christmas morning.

\_\_\_\_\_(Your Name and a  
phone number PLEASE. )

(in memory / in honor of)



### Memorial Contributions

The new coffee maker and pots in the kitchen were purchased with contributions made in memory of Ruby Jochen and Elton Jochen. The new funeral pall and communion set were purchased with contributions made in memory of Daniel Pietsch. The new praise band speakers were purchased with contributions given in memory of Jim Thames.



Pray for our Shut-Ins and  
those in nursing homes and assisted living.



Kay Dippel

Juanita Frels

Myrtle Friemel

Annie and Wilburn Hackebeit

Leon and JoAn Heintschel

Eugene and Carolyn Hunger

Dogie Keith

Hertha Kruse

Joy Skelton

Edwin Votaw

Gladys Weber

Bea Rost

Jenelle Oeltjendiers

JC Spacek

Elroy Zimmermann

Florence Otto Monument Hill

Aleyn Voss Monument Hill

Faye Braun The Continental Austin TX

Grace Robilio Jefferson Place

Verlene Hobratschk Jefferson Place

Betty Schmidt Jefferson Place

Velrie Prause Jefferson Place

Barbara Gest Regency Nursing

Velrie Prause Jefferson Place

Barbara Gest Regency Nursing Schulenburg

Ruby Tielsch Regency Nursing Schulenburg

Claude Mertz Oakland Manor Giddings

Mel Cameron Concordia Nursing & Rehab

Bella Vista AR

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES** will be in the Narthex beginning the weekend of December 10/11. If you do not find a box with your name, please let the Church Office know and one can be assigned to you.

**PLEASE DO NOT USE THE NEW BOXES UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2023.**

**NOTE: All offerings received by December 31 or postmarked by December 31 will be reflected on your 2022 Giving Statement.**



# *What's Happening at St. Paul!*

**QUILTING MONDAY**—Quilters (Hand Quilting) meet every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Quilting Room in the Fellowship Hall. They will meet Monday 12/ 5 and 12/12 but will not meet remainder of December until January 9.

**TACKY TUESDAY** (tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief) will not meet in December. They will resume on January 17, 2023.

**FRIENDS IN FAITH, our women's group**, will meet Monday, December 5 at 6 pm at the home of Faith Frerichs; 5730 Mueller Rd; La Grange. We will make fruit baskets for our homebound, please bring fruit for the baskets. Also bring a snack to share for the Christmas Party! All are invited to join for a fun evening of sharing.

**FISHERS OF MEN, our men's group**, will meet Monday, December 12 at 6:30 pm at the home of Tim Knesek; 3014 Hwy 159; La Grange. ALL Fishers of Men are hosts. They will go caroling and wives and significant others are invited.

**HANDBELL CHOIR** - meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

**CHOIR**—meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

**PRAISE BAND** - meets on Wednesdays at 8:00 pm

**LYO, our high school youth group**, meets on Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. They WILL NOT meet December 21, 28 and January 4. They will resume January 11, 2023.

**BUILDING FACILITIES COMMITTEE**—will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

**ALTAR GUILD**—will meet Tuesday, December 13 at 2:00 pm in the Friendship Room to review the schedule for the next quarter. All members welcome to join the group.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE**—will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**— will meet on Tuesday, December 20 at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Room.



**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**2023 Second Chance Work Schedule**

***January 3-9 February 14-20 March 28–April 3 May 9 –15***

***June 22-26 August 1-7 September 12-18 October 24-30 December 12-18***

*Second Chance hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

*& Mondays, 8 a.m.*

*Tuesday-Thursday are spent receiving, pricing and putting items out to sell; Fridays and Saturdays are the days the store is open to the public; and Monday mornings are for straightening up the store for the next volunteers.*

***Thank you to all volunteers and  
we always welcome new volunteers!***

St. Paul Coordinators: Carolyn Buchanek, Patty Ehler, JoLene Hughes, Linda Morrison,  
Ginger Muesse and Gloria Raschke

**2022 AMEN volunteer schedule**

**8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mondays**

**December 12**

**is St. Paul day to work at AMEN**

**(Also Thursday December 15 to accept  
food donations ONLY)**

St. Paul's AMEN Coordinator is Rebecca Dittrich. Please contact her at 713-254-3306 if you would like to volunteer.

**REMINDER—** The second Sunday of the month is designated for collections for the AMEN food pantry. Green baskets are at portico entrance and porch of the church office. And a grocery basket is located in the Narthex for your donations.

**2023 AMEN Volunteer Schedule**

**February 6 March 20 May 22 July 1 August 28 November 6**

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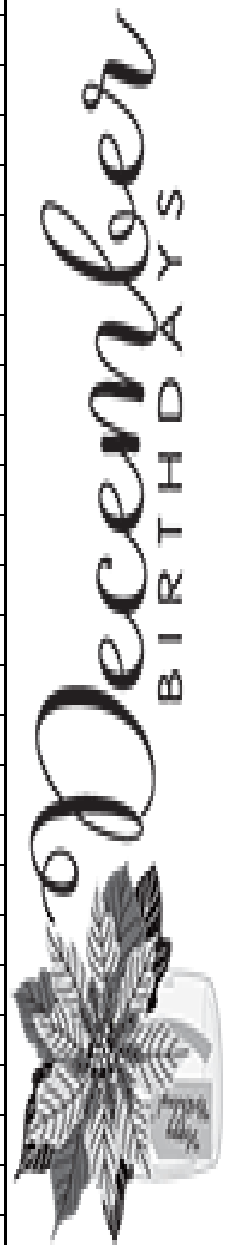
***COUNCIL POSITIONS: It is once again time to find members to run for Congregation Council positions for 2023. If you are interested, please let the office know.***

***Council positions are elected for 2 year terms at the annual meeting.  
The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 22, 2023***

***Please consider serving on Congregation Council. Meetings are only once a month and these leadership positions are very important in helping St. Paul in its Mission Statement to “care, share and provide Christian growth opportunities.”***



DATE	NAME
2	Dawn Halpain-Porter, Susan Roden
3	Kayla Pietsch
4	Colby Jochen, Tracye Jones
5	Bea Rost
7	Mindy Davis, Shelbie Lambert, Melissa Oehlke, Clay Wolff
8	Emma Fitzpatrick
9	Kay Dippel, Silas Hernandez, Kaycee Roesler, Hunter Sabo, Joy Skelton
10	Ty Toddy
11	Donnie Dippel, Holly Howard
12	Holly Fritsch
13	James Boyd, Scott Byler, Marsha Pietsch
14	David Jochen, Karen Mayer
15	Meredith Berger
16	B.J. Moerbe
19	Gloria Baumbach, Brandon Byler
20	Rebecca Dittrich
21	Danna Radcliff
22	Lila Halpain, Kathie Nitsche
23	Lisa Grimes, Zion Hernandez
24	Destiny Psencik
25	David Ehler, David Schneider
26	Cody Karisch, Florence Otto
27	Trey Cunningham, Calin Keilers
28	Garrett Moerbe
29	Paul Mikula, Stella Schielack
30	Keslyn Davis, Odis Pfeiffer, Johnnie Roberson
31	Weslyn Childs, Toni Keilers



## DECEMBER



December Anniversaries		
Couple	Date	Years
Carolyn & Jim Buchanek	12/5	35
Wendy & Charles Friemel	12/8	12
Diana & Thomas Glynn	12/10	45
Susan & Tim Knesek	12/14	37
Annazell & AC von Minden	12/23	68
Sharon & James Elias	12/31	45
Kathy & Scott Toensing	12/31	36

# December Worship Assistants

	5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
<b>Dec 3 &amp; 4</b>		
Ushers	John D. & Kay Marburger	Shawn & Ann Raborn
Lectors	John D. Marburger	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Dennis Zbranek	Janet Coronado
Fellowship Refreshments		Open
Flowers	Open	
<b>Dec 10 &amp; 11</b>		
Ushers	Rhonda Koether,, Annette Citzler	David & Patty Ehler
Lectors	Rhonda Koether	Open
Altar Guild	JoLene and Gerald Hughes	JoLene and Gerald Hughes
Fellowship Refreshments		Annette Citzler
Flowers	Open	
<b>Dec 17 &amp; 18</b>		
Ushers	James & Sharon Elias	Kenny & Patti Weber
Lectors	Sharon Elias	Praise Band
Altar Guild	Open	Lisa Mollenberndt
Fellowship Refreshments		Linda Anders
Flowers	Poinsettias	
<b>Dec 24 &amp; 25</b>	<b>7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b>	<b>9 am Christmas Day</b>
Ushers	Don Koether, Jackie Skelton	Scott & Kathy Toensing
Lectors	Open	Kathy Toensing
Fellowship Refreshments		None this week
Altar Guild	Pastor Sid and Susan Roden	Pastor Sid and Susan Roden
Flowers	Poinsettias	



The Call Committee last met October 17. The November 7 meeting was moved to November 28 due to conflicts in schedules. They will meet at that time to continue with the process.

Please continue to pray for the call process, our future Pastor and their family. Thank you!

**Sylvia Jewell, Chair**

**Ashleigh Parks, Secretary**

**Gary Anders**

**Sandra Tekyl**

**Hannah Bellue**

**Tim Knesek**

# December 2022

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1	2	3 5:00 pm Worship
4 9:00 am Worship Children and Adult Sun- day School following services	5 9:00 am Quilters No Confirmation Class 7:00 Friends in Faith @ Faith Frerichs	6 6:00 pm Building Facilities Committee	7 8:30 Community Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 6:30 pm LYO	8	9	10 5:00 pm Worship
11 9:00 am Worship Children and Adult Sun- day School following services	12 9:00 am Quilters 5:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 Fishers of Men @ Tim Knesek	13 2:00 pm Altar Guild meeting In Friendship Room	14 8:30 Community Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 6:30 pm LYO	15	16	17 5:00 pm Worship
18 9:00 am Worship Children and Adult Sun- day School following services	19 No Quilters No Confirmation Class	20 No Tacky Tuesday 6:00 pm Church Council	21 8:30 Community Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbell Choir NO LYO	22	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
25 9:00 am Christmas Day Service	26 No Quilters No Confirmation Class	27	28 8:30 Community Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbell Choir NO LYO	29	30	31

## St. Paul 2022 Congregation Council

**Karen Bellue**, President (979)966-2889 call or text

**Paul Mikula**, Vice-President

**Ginger Friemel**, Secretary

**Donnie Dippel**, Treasurer

**Russell Dittrich**, Mission/Peru

**Atlan Citzler, Jr.**, Stewardship/Finance/Endowment

**David Ehler**, Property

**Frank Macaulay**, Outreach/Social Ministry

**Michael Mach**, Worship/Technology

**Dianne Lude**, Youth/Parish Education

### Parish Office Hours:

**Monday—Friday**

**8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.**

**Office Phone: 979-968-5657**

**Pastor Cell Phone: 512-825-0842**

**Fellowship Hall Phone: 979-968-9603**

**[www.stpaullg.org](http://www.stpaullg.org)**

**[stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com)**



## St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

**The Rev. William J. Sappenfield**, *Interim Pastor*

*[wsappenfield@att.net](mailto:wsappenfield@att.net)*

[Pastor is in the office Mon-Wed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.]

(512) 825-0842

**Ruth Poncik**, *Office Manager*

**Sherise Davis**, *Organist*

**Jean McHenry**, *Organist*

**Kathy Toensing**, *Adult Choir/Praise Band Choir*

**Carolyn Bennetsen, Mannie Fritsch-Schmid,  
and Paul Mikula**, *Stephen Ministers*

## MESSENGER

**December 2022** *Monthly Newsletter of St Paul Church*

**St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**P O Box 567/427 S Washington Street**

**La Grange, Texas 78945**

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