

For All The Saints



The Epistle of St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, Texas

October 2026

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

Near the end of October it will be time again for the Boys of Summer to decide who is the best in the world as they contend for that title in the World Series. Not that I have little faith, I just know that since the tender age of 3 I have been disappointed far more often than not. And, as this is being written and prepared to be passed out, the First Place Astros are now a game behind the Rangers.

Anyway, with that sob story having been told I want you today, baseball fan or not, to consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool that has become very high priced as the bat makers advertise all of the things they have done to make their bat better. I was blown away a while back at Academy that you can spend five hundred dollars for a bat for your T-baller to use. Anyway. I digress again.

Back to the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (Luther's Small Catechism)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion), and the Word of God. It also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills and abilities, our money and

resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

In HIS service and yours,

Pastor Heckmann
Hebrews 13:20-21

PERMANENT LOGIN INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED SERVICES ON VARIOUS PLATFORMS

FaceBook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/St-Paul-Lutheran-Church-The-Grove-109288640704387/> This is an updated address to get you there in case you are not already on FaceBook and want to watch the service without having to sign up for FaceBook.

YouTube permanent address <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCXYIcwW-U5ZaF5m2vYn8vw>

Vimeo on our Website address <http://www.stpaulthegrove.org> Then click on the Vimeo button, the little "V" at the top right hand corner of the page and you will be hooked up for the live stream of the service. You can also go there to watch archived services from the past as well.

ARCHIVED SERMONS ON THE WEB Just to remind you, our services and sermons are posted on the web each week. Go to www.stpaulthegrove.org, click "Connect", click "Vimeo", and then click on the sermon you would like to see. If you have questions, please ask.

FACT NEWS

By Karl Reigle

Our October gathering will be a Lock-in held at our church beginning on Friday, October 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. and lasting until Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. There will be food aplenty, games, time to mess around, maybe a movie or two, maybe some time for sleeping, and through it all a lot of fun to have with our FACT group friends.

The young people need to bring with them a sleeping bag and pillow, or its equivalent, to use if and when they are worn out.

This whole event is in the planning stages as this is being written, so look for more information as it becomes available. Right now, just be sure to mark the dates on your calendar so your children can be a part of this event.

If you have any questions, please contact Karl Reigle at 254-563-2095 or Travis Smith at 512-964-4038 for more information.

Starting October 1st, the Bible Recap will begin the New Testament.



If you did not join us in January, or if you began in January but fell behind and it seemed you would never be able to catch up so you quit, or whatever the reason may be, now is the perfect time to begin or begin again. The ways to sign up are still the same, you will just start with the New Testament on the 1st of October. If you have any questions, please ask. We would love to have you join us through the New Testament. I can guarantee you that you will be glad you did.

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 31st

6:00-7:30 p.m.

It's time to continue planning your trunk for this year's annual Trunk or Treat! We are asking for as many trunks as possible, so please consider sponsoring one. All cars should be in place no later than 5:30 p.m. Concessions will be free again this year, and there will be plenty of games for the children to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you there!



TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Deb and I have been given the great honor of being asked by Donna Snow, Bible Study writer and leader extraordinaire to co-host with her a ten day trip to the Holy Land, March 8-17, 2027.

We will see places like Mount Carmel, where Elijah defeated the Prophets of Baal; Mount Tabor; and Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus. We will see where Jesus preached His Sermon on the Mount; and take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We will go to Caesarea Philippi; Gideon Springs where God had Gideon reduce his army down to 300 men to take on the much larger Midianite army based on how Gideon's men drank water. (Spoiler alert, Gideon's army won.) You will even have the opportunity to swim in, or more accurately, float on the Dead Sea. We will check out Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, the road on which Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Wailing Wall, the City of David, the Upper Room where Jesus instituted the Last Supper, and many other places like the valley where David and Goliath did battle. Interspersed will be time to check out the local cuisine and way of life.

There are a few brochures on the table in the Narthex if you are interested in joining us, or probably more accurately, if you would like to join Donna. As always, if you have questions, please ask.

RIGHT TO LIFE CHAIN

This annual event is right around the corner once again. It will be held on Sunday, October 4th, on 31st Street in Temple in front of the Mall on both sides of the street. We will gather at the Chick-Fil-A at 1:45 p.m. to pick up our signs and share a word of prayer. We then fan out along 31st street to stand for one short hour giving witness to our belief that all life is sacred, from conception to natural death. This is non-confrontational. You don't have to talk to anyone, except as we are gathering to get our signs! If you have any questions, let me know. We stand rain or shine. This is not a "demonstration" or a "protest" by "anti-abortion" people. This is Christians praying for one hour about God's gift of life.

LITTLE DISCIPLES FALL PARTY

Little Disciples will meet at church on October 24th from 10:00 a.m. until noon for a fall party!! We will have a devotional, game, and 2 different slimes to make! We will also watch a short fall show! Little Disciples is a group for toddlers - 4th grade. It is meant to foster child and parent relationships with one another and Jesus. This is not a drop off activity. We hope everyone can make it!! Contact Rebekah Munz with any questions 254-913-8047.

OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING RECIPIENT

Our Sunday School offerings given in October will be used in the work of Tim and Michelle Miller as they continue to work with Lutheran Bible Translators. That is about all we can share with you because of the sensitivity of the area in which they are working. We can however share with you that the stories coming back are amazing regarding the numbers of lives that are being touched with the Good News of Jesus Christ through their work of translating the Bible into the language of the people with whom they live.

WEAR RED ON REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th

Just to put it on your radar, here is a reminder that our tradition has become to wear red on Reformation Sunday, if you would like. If you would not like to that is fine too. It is just another visual reminder of the blood of the martyrs shed through the centuries, as well as the fire of the Holy Spirit which enlivens and energizes this most beloved Christian Church!!

AFTERNOON HELP WANTED

I'm looking for someone to spend afternoons with my 84-year-old wife, who has Alzheimer's. She is sweet and enjoys TV, coloring, and looking through quilting magazines. I am usually home, but occasionally need to leave for errands. She mainly needs companionship and supervision to keep her safe, along with help with eating, medications, and using the bathroom. We need help Monday-Friday, approximately 1:00-5:00 p.m. in Purmela, TX. We're looking for someone dependable, patient, and caring. Alzheimer's experience is helpful but not required. If interested, please contact David Hilsberg at 512-567-3100

THANK YOU

To all our friends at St. Paul:

What a joy for us at Orphan Grain Train to receive all of your gifts that Pastor and Mrs. Heckmann brought to us in August. Thank you to Sue Brown and the Quilters, to the LWML, to the Sunday School, and to the whole congregation for the many quilts, school kits, Christmas Boxes and very generous monetary gift you shared with us. What a great bounty we received. There is plenty to share with the local pregnancy resource center, a poor elementary school in our area, several church ministries who distribute to the needy here in the Highland Lakes area, as well as around the world as we share Christmas joy and the message of Christ with children in faraway places. Thank you for your hard work and all of the time you put into these gifts. God bless you all at St. Paul. We thank God for your partnership in serving the poor and the lost. s/Your friends at Orphan Grain Train, Buchanan Dam, Kathy Raddatz, Dianne Cooper, Myrna Choitz, and all the gang.



October Bible Study and Meeting

The next LWML Bible study and meeting will be October 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the FAC. The Bible study will be “Humble Service” by Deac. Bonnie Beversdorf from the Fall 2026 LWML Quarterly.

October Mission Project

Our mission project this month will be supplying cookies and working the Cookie Walk at Trunk-or-Treat. Holly Sohns will be passing a sign-up sheet at the October meeting.

October Mission Grant Recipients

Each year, we collect mites, which the LWML uses to provide grants to organizations that serve our neighbors while sharing God’s Word and extending His kingdom. Below are our two October recipients:

Mobilizing After School Care for Teens - Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska | \$69,500

Our Place is a caring, Christian community for special needs students between the ages of thirteen and twenty who are not safe when home alone and have aged out of the Hastings, Nebraska, daycares. Grounded in a Christ-like love for their neighbors, Our Place provides programming designed to promote academic, social, and life skills and opportunities to grow spiritually through community service and enrichment activities. This grant will fund the purchase of a special needs accessible van for the after-school program.

Teaching Christ to the Physically Handicapped - Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, Louisiana | \$12,000

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans is the only Lutheran high school in the LCMS Southern District. Its mission field is a city that has a very diverse population with many disadvantaged people. Its mission is to provide quality body, mind, and spirit education to its students and to equip them to make disciples for Christ. This grant will fund the purchase of five handicapped-accessible wheelchair desks, two lunchroom tables, two automatic door openers, handrails, and a walkway from the school to the church.

Read more about the two grants at www.lwml.org/mission-grants.

LWML Fall Rally – October 3rd

Our Fall Rally will be October 3rd at Faith Lutheran Church in Lampasas. Breakfast starts at 8:30, followed by a devotion, presentation by Crystal Potts, meeting, and closing with lunch and fellowship. Speak with Deb Heckmann for more details.

LWML Sunday – October 4th

The first Sunday in October is the day we will observe LWML Sunday. Don’t forget to wear purple! We will also install our LWML Officers that morning.



LWML Fall Rally

O C T O B E R 3 , 2 0 2 6

8:30 am

Enjoy a light breakfast

9:00 am

The fall rally will begin with an opening devotion by Pastor Tim

Speaker

Crystal Potts will present on her multiple mission trips to Czechia and the work that is being done there

Business meeting to follow

Lunch

Please plan to stay for food and fellowship

In-gathering items for the Lampasas Mission.

Cereal, Canned goods, Peanut butter, Paper towels, Toilet paper

In lieu of a registration fee, a donation/free will offering will be taken for LCMS short term mission trips.

Faith Lutheran Church • 182 Co Rd 11 • Lampasas, TX



C.L.A.S.S.I.C.S.

(morning Bible study held on the 3rd Thursday of the month)

By: Sherry Hartgrove

The CLASSICS met for Bible study and fellowship with Pastor Heckmann on Thursday, September 17, 2026. Twenty-four saints met to take "A Look at the Occult."

Led by Pastor Heckmann, the group had an engaging discussion on several occult topics- divination, Astrology, and other miscellaneous Occult topics. Palm readers, horoscopes, fortune cookies, or the Farmer's Almanac can't determine the cause of events or predict the future, and they can give false expectations. As Revelation 1:8 states, only God knows the beginning and the end.

Adults and children can easily be influenced by movies, media, iPhones, and music every day. Ephesians 5:3-4 warns individuals to separate themselves from sinful behavior. We should develop traits that align with God's character and focus on praiseworthy thoughts. Pastor Heckmann also reminded each of us to stay aware of what our children and grandchildren are exposed to daily.

All of the negative practices discussed in the Occult activities take an individual's attention away from God, keep them from relying on God, and break the First Commandment. As stated in Ecclesiastes 7:14, "A man cannot discover anything about his future." Each of us should continue to trust in God's wisdom and stay in the Word.

The group acknowledged the September birthdays of Doris Symm, Stan Dake, and Catherine Peebles. The CLASSICS members then enjoyed a wonderful "potluck" salad lunch. Thank you to everyone who prepared such a variety of salads and desserts to make the noon meal exceptional.

At the next meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2026, Pastor Heckmann will continue "A Look at the Occult." We will celebrate "Oktoberfest" at the noon meal. Lunch will include noodles (Doris), sweet rice (Janell), potato salad (Janice), and sausage & sauerkraut (Joyce & Sy). Catherine, Denise, and Gina will furnish the desserts.

We hope you will join the CLASSICS in October for an informative Bible study, delicious German food, and fellowship. We look forward to new fellow members interested in studying the Word.



The Everlasting Light

Children's Christmas Service

The rehearsals for the children's Christmas Eve Worship Service will be beginning very soon. It does not seem possible when it is over 100 degrees outside as this is being written. With that said, here is the schedule.

October 25th Meeting with all of the parents of our Sunday School students to discuss the Children's Christmas Eve Worship Service so that we are all on the same page.

November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, as well as **December 13th**. Each time of rehearsal will be following the morning worship service that day.

As is our tradition for the past 23 years, **December 20th** after our morning worship service will be the first time this service is presented. The second time we will worship together with the young people of our congregation leading us will be **December 24th** at 7:00 p.m.

Please note: All children with speaking parts must be present for at least 4 practices, as well as both services. If they cannot be present, their parts will be reassigned so that all students have the opportunity to rehearse their parts together.

We look forward to hearing the children share the Christmas message!

OCTOBER 2026

Birthdays

1 Jill Lorenz	13 Peggy Sharp
2 Bob Winkler	14 Savannah Clawson
3 Jacob Glynn	15 Terri Keller
3 Stacy Green	18 Jack Hoyson
6 Noah Miller	18 Jarrell Turner Jr
6 Dorothy Winkler	19 Nathaniel Burrow
6 Tina Winters	21 Angela Stephens
7 Steven Winkler	22 Brock Hill
8 Barbara Morgan	23 Judy Riess
9 Kinsley Schenk	26 Janet Smith
10 Doug Schenk	28 Anna Whisenant
11 Donna Heiner	29 Loyd Perry
11 Jorge Mendez	31 Rodney Winkler
12 Stacey Golden	

(If your birth date or anniversary date is listed incorrectly, please let the church office know. If it is not included here, please share that information as well.)

SERVING IN OCTOBER FLOWERS FOR MONTH

4. Clarence and Donna Heiner
11. Doug and Dawn Schenk
18.
25. Barbara Gaskamp

GREETERS

Michael and Melanie Kunkel

USHERS

* Steven Blankemeier, David Blankemeier,
Chad Burrow, Gary Reynolds,
Cory Roberts

ORGANIST

Miriam Winkler

Anniversaries

3 John and Susan Dossey
4 Robert and (Diane) Symm
5 (Chad) and Katy Hill
6 Jimmy and Sharon Sohns
9 Russ and Lawanda Filyaw
9 Clarence and Donna Heiner
10 Michael and Debbie Hohle
11 Eddie Wilkerson and Brandy Burkett
24 (Tony) and Danielle Diaz
31 Kris and Peggy Sharp



MONEY COUNTER & HELPER

Tina Reynolds and Chad Burrow

CEMETERY CARETAKERS

The Tim Pietsch and Bob Bangsund Families

HISTORICAL CEMETERY

The Russ Filyaw Family

ALTAR GUILD

Kirsten Watson and Debi Scott

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Don Golden

ACOLYTES

4. Chloe Boswell
11. Jacob Glynn
18. Shelby Golden
25. Claire Kunkel

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
St. Paul Lutheran Church-MS 220 The Grove Road Gatesville, Texas 76528 Office Phone: 254-986-2607 Cell Phone: 254-760-5274 Web: www.stpaulthegrove.org E-mail: pastor@stpaulthegrove.org						
4 19 th Sunday after Pentecost LWML Sunday Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Bible Classes for all 9:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15am Church Council 11:30 a.m. Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm Right to Life Chain in Temple Meet at 1:45 at Chick-Fil-A By Wal-Mart	5	6 Circuit Pastors Conference – Faith, Lampasas 8:30 a.m. <i>Quilting Bee</i> 9:00 – Noon <i>Board of Elders</i> <i>Meeting</i> 7:00 p.m.	7 Midweek Religion Classes 6:30-8:00 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	8 CLASSICS 10:00 a.m.	9	10