

For All The Saints



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

September 2026

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

A brother pastor recently shared some observations regarding his 32 years of teaching the young people of his congregation. His words resonated with me, so I want to share with you a few observations that he made and I have also made over the 41 years I have been in the business and the 23 years I have been blessed to be called the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, and been given the opportunity to teach the young people of this flock.

I could not say it any better, so I share his thoughts with you since they are my thoughts as well. Rev. Christopher Thoma wrote:

I just realized I've been teaching confirmation classes for 32 years now. I don't want to pass the buck, but looking back over the years, I think I can say with relative certainty that a child's future departure from the faith is, more often than not, already embedded in the Christian education that is taking place, or more often than not taking place in the home long before he ever sets foot in my confirmation class.

In particular, I've learned that few things predict a child's continuing life in the faith more than the value his parents place on worship. Indeed, faithful worship attendance is unquestionably central to faith's formation. And yet, for many parents, it's the first thing sacrificed.

But there's something else to keep in mind. Remember that part of faith's formation is learning to resist the devil, the world, and the sinful nature, which are working overtime to pull all of us away from Christ—from His faith-strengthening Word and gifts and life together in the Church. A child cannot resist that pull with less of these things. He needs more.

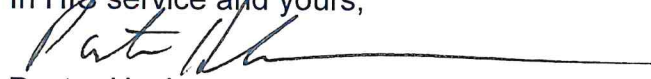
That said, when I think about the kids who were confirmed in the faith here at Our Savior over the years but later fell away, I feel a great sadness. And yet, part of my point is that no honest onlooker should expect a pastor's confirmation class to undo in two short years, actually 60 meeting times, or about 75 hours total, what has been preached and practiced in the child's home since birth. We try as hard as we can, but in the end, even the best confirmation class cannot out-teach dad and mom.

What one should take away from these observations is that the parents have the greatest influence in teaching their children the faith. If parents want their children to be raised in the faith, first they need to be in church, mother and father. Secondly, every home needs to be a home where God's Word is read, prayed, and sung.

Back to me now. If you need help or support in raising children in the faith, don't hesitate to contact me. I don't have all the answers, but Deb and I do have a little experience in the whole business of

raising children who love the Lord and delight in serving Him. I (we) will do our best to support you in the vocation, the ministry of raising Christians.

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

As the new school year begins, we invite all incoming 5th through 8th grade children to join our FACT group! It's a wonderful opportunity to hang out and share experiences in Christ. We plan to meet on the second Saturday of each month throughout the school year.

Our first FACT group meeting will be on September 12th at noon in the Family Activity Center. We'll have a devotion to strengthen ourselves in Christ while having sandwiches for lunch, play some games, and vote on activities for our monthly get-togethers.

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

MIDWEEK RELIGION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

These classes will soon be upon us. In fact our first time together will be Wednesday, September 9th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The classes will usually last until 8:00 p.m. On the 9th, we will meet from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. we will meet with all of the parents of the students to go over the year and what is expected of our young people and their families. So, please be sure to have your children in Grades 1 through 8 here on the 9th at 6:30 p.m. and plan then to join us at 7:30 p.m. for the parent/grandparent meeting in the Sunday School opening room.

Bible Study Opportunities

Choose one (or two) for this NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

LADIES' EVENING BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesday, September 9, 2026, the Ladies' Evening Bible study will continue their study: **Strong and Courageous: Studying God's Promises in Joshua** by Donna Snow. This study is a verse-by-verse Bible study looking at the life of Joshua to see how you, too, can be strong and courageous amidst any challenges, conflicts, or roadblocks you face. We will begin with Lesson 6 of the study. Be assured that even if you were not a part of the first weeks of the study that you are still welcome and can benefit from this study of God's Word. If you would like to join them this Fall, please visit with Deb Heckmann. This Bible study meets each Wednesday evening during Midweek Religion classes, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please speak to Deb Heckmann.

MEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Evening Bible Study will also resume meeting on September 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room in the FAC. They have not chosen a new study for this new school year, so if you have any thoughts on what you would like to study, please visit with Stan Dake and keep an eye out for what they choose. They too meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Stan or me.

MIDWEEK RELIGION CLASSES

These classes are for all members of our congregation and community who are in grades 1 through 8 and will start meeting again from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. on September 9th as well. If I may share the Law with you, these classes are mandatory for our 7th and 8th graders, with the rest being highly encouraged to attend their age appropriate classes. The Good News is that as they attend and as we carve out time for them to be with us, incredible things can happen in our walk with our crucified and risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How valuable and life altering these times are in our formative years. If you want real life examples, just let me know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – 3 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER

This learning opportunity happens in the **nursery** in the **FAC**. If you have any questions, please contact Faye Morrow or Mary Thoe, their very gifted and loving teachers. If you have children in this age group I would strongly encourage you to be here with them to learn even more about Jesus at this tender age. ***Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*** (Matthew 19:14)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sunday School Classes are offered for all ages. There is a group opening in the "Sunday School Opening Room" at 9:00 a.m. and then the students head to their various Sunday School rooms with their peers and teachers.

YOUTH BIBLE CLASS OPPORTUNITY

Each Sunday morning in the Youth Room in the FAC there is a Bible Class offered for everyone of high school age. Mr. James Morrow is the faithful, much loved, and very gifted teacher who continues to guide these young people in the study of God's Word and how it applies to their lives. They will begin a study of the book called **Lutheranism 101**, dealing with the teachings of God's Word as we believe, teach, and confess the various doctrines and teachings shared with us in the Word of God. This class also begins at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning upstairs in the Youth Room.

PARENTS' SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The parents' Sunday Morning Bible Class is studying the same material that the Sunday School children study each Sunday so that they will be better equipped to have meaningful conversations at home about the "topic of the day".

If you are a parent of school aged children, please plan to join us for this study. This class meets each Sunday morning in the Multipurpose Room in the Family Activity Center. If you have any questions or want to be a part of this study, please visit with Jeremy or Rebekah Munz.

SUNDAY MORNING SANCTUARY BIBLE STUDY

Very briefly, we will continue to consider the verses of Holy Scripture that we have listened to according to The Bible Recap (TBR) plan that many of us are studying together. Even if you are not a part of the TBR process you are still welcome to join us as we discuss various parts of the Bible. In other words, you do not have to be reading the Bible day by day chronologically to benefit from our study together. You are all invited to join us for Bible study each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY MORNING PARISH HALL BIBLE STUDY

This class is studying the book of **Ephesians** in an in-depth manner. Mr. Stan Dake leads the class using Bible study sheets that have been prepared with this class in mind. You are invited to join them as they work their way through this very valuable Epistle. Like the rest of our Sunday Morning Bible Study opportunities, they too begin at 9:00 a.m. Unlike the rest of our Bible Studies on Sunday mornings, the coffee pot is on and oftentimes there is a donut or two to be enjoyed.

CLASSICS

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. No, you don't have to be a certain age to get in. Right now our age range is from the 40's to the 90's. If you fit anywhere in between there, or if you are younger or older, you are invited. As part of this time together we always enjoy the Noon meal. We are studying **Angels** and all their various facets.

THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE STUDY GROUP

This group of ladies meets each third Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room to study various Bible studies written by women and for women. The topics vary with each one giving us the opportunity to discuss issues that are affecting us today.

CELL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

These studies meet once a month and are always looking for new students to join in the study. They meet at various times and in various places during the month. The groups continue year round, so any time is a good time to join them. Check your calendar for dates and times when they meet, or ask me. I will direct you to the appropriate place. Here are just a few thoughts about each one.

The *Second Sunday of the Month* group is studying the Gospel of **St. John** using a study that we wrote just for them. This group continues to grow in numbers and in their love and support of each other, as well as in their knowledge of God and His Word. You are more than welcome to join them as they enjoy the evening meal together and then study what God our Father has to say to us through the pen of St. John. They meet in the Multipurpose Room in the FAC at 5:00 p.m. every second Sunday of the month.

The *Third Sunday of the Month* group is studying a book that asks the important question "**Has America Christianity Failed?**" The book considers what is passing for American Christianity these days and how that lines up with what the inspired Word of God has to say. It is a very eye opening study and you are invited to join us. This group meets on the third Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room! They too enjoy the evening meal together. This is a younger group, so bring your children along. This is a wonderful time for them to interact with other Christians their age and make these lifelong friendships.

The *Fourth Sunday of the Month* group is studying the **Gospel of Mark** using an in-house study written with them in mind. They are always looking for more folks to join them. This group meets at 5:00 p.m. for a meal and then to study every fourth Sunday of the month in the Multipurpose Room in the FAC.

The *Third Thursday of the Month* small group has begun a new study of the book entitled **Lutheranism 101**. If you would like to be a part of this group and grow in your own understanding of the doctrines and teachings of our Lutheran Church as they are drawn from the Word of God, please let James or Faye Morrow know that you would like to join us. We meet in the Multipurpose Room each 3rd Thursday of the month for fellowship and the supper meal and then the study. We begin our time together at 6:00 p.m. If you have questions, ask them or ask me.

Those are some of the opportunities you have to study the Word of God with other members of your church family in this new school year. As you can see the topics are very varied regarding the material being considered. The groups are also very varied in those who attend, many of them being newer members to our congregation. I encourage you to make time in your hectic schedule to be a part of one or two or maybe even three of these studies (that is if you are an over achiever) as we grow together in our Christian faith.

And, as always, if there is another group and study that needs to be added, please let me know what group that might be and what you would like to study. There are still days on the church calendar that could accommodate another Bible study or two.

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 31st

6:00-7:30 p.m.

It's time to begin 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!



SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING RECIPIENT

Our Sunday School offerings given in September will be used in the work of the Gatesville Pregnancy Resource Center as they begin their prolife work in Gatesville. The GPRC was established through a collaborative effort among several local churches in the greater Gatesville area, united by a common vision to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by supporting women and families facing unplanned pregnancies, taking advantage of the opportunities to share pro-life resources and compassionate care within the community. If you would like more information, please let me know. I would be happy to share a folder of information with you.

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.



September Bible Study and Social

The next LWML Bible study and social will be September 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the FAC. The Bible study will be “God’s Heart-Changing ‘No’” by Susan M. Schulz from the Summer 2026 LWML Quarterly. Come join us for good food, fellowship, and growing in the faith!

September Mission Project

A bake sale will be held September 27th after church to benefit the seminary in Eritrea. We would be grateful for LWML members to contribute by bringing baked goods.

September 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 September recipients:

The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa — Sierra Leone and Liberia Project: Pastoral Education West Africa | \$86,000

This project will send two LCMS pastors to Sierra Leone and Liberia to teach Lutheran pastors principles of doctrine and practice. LCMS pastors will make two trips per year, for a total of four trips during the biennium. The estimated cost for travel and lodging is \$21,000.

Students selected by their church body attend Pastoral Ministry training. In countries where witch doctors, Islam, animism, prosperity preachers, and combinations of these influences are prevalent, proclaiming and teaching the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ is vital. The project also hopes to purchase Kindles or electronic books, as paper books do not last long in the climate. A web portal will allow teaching and assignment completion between sessions. This grant will cover travel, facilities, lodging, meals, and materials.

Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses — Tanzania Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne / Africa | \$100,000

Due to tremendous growth, the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania has partnered with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) to train deaconesses to serve its expanding membership. Upon graduation, these women will serve as instructors at the Bishop Emmanuel Makala Center in Negezi, Tanzania, helping establish an indigenous process for training future deaconesses.

These trained deaconesses will lead other women in serving their communities and addressing needs such as poverty, disease, disabilities, hunger, alcoholism, spousal and child abuse, and pagan influences. This grant will fund scholarships for two students to complete their master’s-level deaconess studies through CTSFW’s distance education program.

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

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

By: Sherry Hartgrove

After the regular "summer" break, The CLASSICS met on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Twenty-one saints were in attendance. Pastor Heckmann led the group in our study today about Evil Angels.

The fall of Satan took a third of the angels with him (Revelation 12:4). These fallen angels—demons—now serve Satan's purposes of opposing God and deceiving those of us on earth. Satan and his demons are powerful and employ many devious techniques. The Bible describes Satan through multiple images. In Genesis 3, he appears as a serpent, and in Revelation, he is called the dragon. The Bible says, "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). These images show Satan is a real adversary who works through rebellion and deception. His primary objective is to lead people away from God, as seen in his temptation of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). The Devil's angels, or demons, assist him in his mission.

We must defend ourselves from the Devil and these evil angels, who Stan stated "are constantly working overtime, and we must stay prepared." Recognizing the tactics, deceptions, and temptation of these Evil Angels will help us prepare to resist their influence. All of us can prepare ourselves by maintaining a close relationship with God through prayer and the study of His Holy Word, and by putting on the full Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17). As Pastor Heckmann stated, "We have the tools but leave them in the shed. When we get up, put on the Armor!"

After Bible study, we sang the traditional birthday song to Denise Blankemeier and Barbara Gaskamp. Everyone then enjoyed a delicious lunch and tasted an array of desserts. Members had the opportunity to enjoy visiting with other Christians.

At our next meeting, Thursday, September 17, 2026, Pastor Heckmann will continue leading us in our Bible study as we take "A Look at the Occult". We invite everyone to join us for a delightful lunch. The October meal will be "Potluck Salads". Pam, Andrew, and Trina will provide desserts.

Our Bible study is open to EVERYONE. COME AND JOIN US!!!

SEPTEMBER 2026

Birthdays

1 Doris Symm	16 Kinsley Wrisk
1 Jerry Terrell	18 Lawanda Filyaw
2 Stan Dake	20 Betty Marrs
3 Jacob Mendoza	20 Stephanie Tuck
4 Catherine Peebles	22 Tana Snoddy
4 Garrett Rush	23 Julia Morrow
5 Eric Bahnsen	25 Raegan Price
5 Travis Smith	25 Sydney Fullmer
7 Hayden Honeycutt	25 Debi Scott
8 Brandon Glynn	26 Deborah Brown
9 Cooper Munz	26 Ruby Hill
10 Kae Hitt	26 Brandon Murillo
10 Jim Stephens	27 Christopher Sohns
10 Tenley Winkler	27 Isabella Vieira
11 Donna Gillmeister	28 Jean Diehl
11 Andrew Morrow	28 Alton Riske
11 Charles Wightman	28 Barbie Symm
14 Walter Sohns Jr.	30 Jimmy Sohns
15 Michael Hoyson	

Anniversaries

5 Lloyd and Brenda Arldt
6 (Jimmy) and Diana Key
10 (Keith) and Mavis Shafer
12 John and Linda Stoker
15 Sy and Sherry Hartgrove
20 (Bobby Joe) and Beverly Wood
25 Billy and Brandy Wrisk



*(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 SEPTEMBER

FLOWERS FOR MONTH

6. Gus and Sue Brown
13. Sy and Sherry Hartgrove
20. Bobby Joe and Beverly Wood
27. Mike and Diana Lockhart

GREETERS

Doug and Mellissa Boswell

USHERS

*James Morrow, Don Golden,
Ken Hardin, Travis Smith

ORGANIST

Miriam Winkler

MONEY COUNTER & HELPER

Joe Bland and Kae Hitt

CEMETERY CARETAKERS

The Edmund Winkler Family

HISTORICAL CEMETERY

The Edmund Winkler Family

ALTAR GUILD

Lawanda Filyaw and Beverly Wood

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Andrew Morrow

ACOLYTES

6. Brylee Winkler
13. Cory Roberts
20. Ethan Boswell
27. Ethan Glynn

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
St. Paul Lutheran Church-MS 220 The Grove Road Gatesville, Texas 76528		1 Circuit Pastor's Conference at Fortress, Harker Heights 8:30 a.m. <i>Quilting Bee</i> 9:00 – Noon Board of Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m.	2	3	4	5
6 15 th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm	7 Labor Day	8 Worship Service at The Meadows 10:00 a.m. Worship Service at Hillside Nursing Home 11:00 a.m.	9 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. <i>Midweek Religion Program Parent's Meeting 7:30</i>	10	11	12 FACT Outing at Church – Bible Study, Lunch, Games, Planning the new year. Noon
13 16 th Sunday after Pentecost Goodies w/Grandparents <i>8:15-8:45 a.m.</i> Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Grandparent's Day Banquet <i>11:45 a.m.</i> Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm Digging Deeper Small Group Bible study – MPR – 5:00 p.m.	14	15 Quilting Bee 9:00 – Noon Artesian Ministries Board of Directors 10:00 a.m.	16 Midweek Religion Classes 6:30-8:00 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	17 Texas District LWML EC Meeting CLASSICS 10:00 a.m.	18 Texas District LWML EC Meeting	19 Texas District LWML EC Meeting
20 17 th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Communion 10:15 LYF Meeting 11:30 a.m. Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm "Has American Christianity Failed" Cell Group – 5:00 p.m.	21	22 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am	23 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.	24	25	26
27 18 th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. LWML BAKE SALE Adult Confirmation Class 2:30 pm Manny and Amy Velasquez Cell Group – 5:00 p.m.	28 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.	29 Quilting Bee 9:00 a.m. Quilting Bee Fall Luncheon 12:00 p.m.	30 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.	Office Phone: 986-2607 Home Phone: 986-2425 Web: www.stpaulthegrove.org E-mail: pastor@stpaulthegrove.org		