



THE PROCLAIMER

January, February,
& March 2025

The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to hear, share, and proclaim the Word of God.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Throughout the years, my family has been blessed by celebrating the "Twelve Days of Christmas." We begin on Christmas Day and end on January 5th, the Eve of Epiphany. This year, the children and youth of St. Paul shared the mystery that started many years ago of this special time. In the well-known carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas", the lyrics were used to teach children Christian doctrine during a time of persecution in 16th century England. The partridge, turtledoves, French hens, calling birds, and other images all symbolized elements of the Christian faith. Today, I want to share the images that our kids shared during the December 15th worship service, and you'll learn the history of the lyrics and gain a new appreciation for this familiar carol!

First day of Christmas: A partridge in a pear tree...

A partridge, a valiant bird, who would fight to death to protect its young, is a symbol of Christ; the pear tree represents the cross.

Second Day of Christmas: Two Turtledoves...Remind us of the sacrifice offered for Jesus, by Mary & Joseph.

Third day of Christmas: These costly birds symbolized the three valuable gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh given to Jesus by the Wise Men.

Fourth Day of Christmas: Reminders of the four Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John who **called** people to faith in Jesus.

Fifth Day: The first 5 books of the Old Testament; Books of Law and considered to be worth more than gold.

Sixth Day: Six geese a-laying symbolize six days of Creation.

Seventh Day: Seven swans a-swimming represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, being a leader, and showing mercy.

Eighth Day: Eight maids a-milking reminds us of the Beatitudes that help us grow strong in our faith like milk gives us strong bones.

Ninth Day: 9 fruits of the spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, & Self-Control represented by 9 ladies dancing!

Tenth Day: 10 Lords a-Leaping represents 10 Commandments to live by!

Eleventh Day: Represent the 11 disciples who **faithfully** followed Jesus and remind us to do the same!

Twelfth Day: Reminds us of the 12 important beliefs found in the Apostle's Creed.

And just who is my True Love? It's **God**, of course!
My family has been so blessed by this tradition and I

invite you to add it to your holiday celebrations! At the same time, you will have fun and let the partridge, turtledoves, French hens, calling birds, and other images remind you of the beauty in song of your faith!
Christmas Blessings that last all year!!!!

In Christ's Love, Ann Mahnken

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, immediately following worship. Among the business items we will deal with at the Annual Meeting are the following:

- Approval of the 2025 Ministry Plan
- Election of individuals to serve on the Church Council. Outgoing council members are Bob Vacek, Mark Lehmborg, and Cindy Bowden.
- Election of the Synod Assembly delegates and the Nominating Committee for 2025

CHILI COOKOFF



St. Paul Lutheran

Chili Cookoff

Sunday, January 26

Put together a team, give your chili a fun name and bring it to share! Starts after the Annual Meeting following church. Cornbread and all the fixings for chili will be provided. If you are willing to bring a pot of chili, please contact LeEster at 512-751-4497. Donations will be given to our food bank!

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet January 8 at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall with Alberta Birk as leader. The group will start a new series on the book of Ephesians.

February 5 hostess is Helen Habecker. We will meet at her home.

March 5 hostess is Debbie Nebgen in the Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTMAS LUMINARY

Thank you to all who helped with and participated in the Luminary to make the event a success. This outreach to the community of Mason from St. Paul Lutheran Church is a meaningful message of hope during the Advent season.

40 DAYS OF LENT
BEGIN ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Schedule: (All services begin at 6:30 PM)

- Ash Wednesday, March 5
- Wednesday, March 12
- Wednesday, March 19
- Wednesday, March 26
- Wednesday, April 2
- Wednesday, April 9

Holy Week:

Palm/Passion Sunday: April 13 at 10:45 AM
 Maundy Thursday: April 17 at 7:00 PM
 Good Friday: April 18 at 7:00 PM
 Resurrection Worship: April 20 at 10:45 AM

LENTEN SUPPER SCHEDULE -
FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 6:00 PM

With the start of the Lenten Season just around the corner, preparations for the Lenten suppers have begun. Each of the church committees will host a light supper for those attending the Lenten worship services. The meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall beginning Wednesday, March 12 at 6:00 PM with the worship service following at 6:30 PM. (A meal will not be served on Ash Wednesday.) The schedule for serving meals for Lent is:

- March 12 - Worship & Music Committee
- March 19 - Parish History & Evangelism Committees
- March 26 - Parish Life & Stewardship Committees
- April 2 - Property Committee
- April 9 - Parish Education & Children's Church Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES GROUP MEETING

The tentative date for the Standing Committees Group Meeting is Sunday, February 23. At this time each year, standing committees meet, organize and set goals for the coming year. This is also a time to encourage members who are not involved in one of the standing committees to join. Our present standing committees are Worship & Music, Evangelism and Social Concerns, Property, Parish Life, Parish History, Parish Education, Children's Church and Stewardship.

A covered dish luncheon will be held immediately following Worship on February 23 and the group meeting will begin after the luncheon.

FOOD BANK SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY



St Paul's month for volunteers to assist in food distribution is February. Current distribution schedule is February 10 and February 24.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Mark Lehmborg at 325-347-2400. Distribution of food occurs in the afternoon from 4-5:30 PM.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

The monthly calendar is available upon request by print or email. You may also view our calendar on our

website or church app. Please notify the office for more information, stpaulmason@gmail.com or 347-5582.



EASTER LILIES

The Altar Guild will decorate the church sanctuary again this year using Easter lilies. Order envelopes will be inserted in the Sunday bulletins on March 23 and March 30. Please fill out the

information on the envelope, place your payment inside and drop it in the marked box in the narthex. Deadline for orders will be Thursday, April 3.

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Mary Schmidt	11	Amy Brooks
2	Avery Brooks	12	Sherry Schmidt
4	Lynn Reichenau	18	Steve Schmidt
5	Jenna Evans	20	Jodie Evans
	Rex Smith	22	Allyson Yonker
6	Caycen Potter	23	Colinn Evans
	Everly Rabon	29	Jimroy Atchison
7	Joan Lindley	31	Sherie Clarkson
9	Casey Callahan		
	Gene Zesch		
	Kassi Reichenau		

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES FEB. BIRTHDAYS

3	Tommy Durst
4	Reubin Ake
8	John Gillespie
10	Stephanie Sparks Simonton
11	Patsy Zesch
12	Tom Gafford
	Cannon Jacoby
	Mary Thorn
14	Cathy Grace
15	Jack Gillespie
17	Linda Doyal
	Mark Lehmborg
26	Margarine Beaman
29	LeEster Burch

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	John Gammill	26	Deb Probst
14	Caleb Reichenau	28	Linda Owen
15	Alberta Birk	29	Kathy Hill
17	Wesley Nebgen	31	Adley Ann Martin
20	Cannon Rabon		
21	Pastor Bill Hill		

If your birthday or a family member's birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please let Deb Probst know @ 325-597-2832 or dcpobst@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us with this project.

PROCLAIMER PUBLICATION

The Proclaimer will be published 4 times each year in January, April, July and October.

OFFICE HOURS

St. Paul Lutheran Church Office hours are Monday - Thursday, 8:30 AM- 12:00 PM.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

Congregational Giving: \$ 13,402.10

Expenditures: \$14,928.79

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Congregational Giving: \$22,128.25

Expenditures: \$18,844.48

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Congregational Giving: \$15,426.00

Expenditures: \$15,146.83

YEAR TO DATE - FOURTH QUARTER

MINISTRY PLAN CONTRIBUTION

GOAL: \$215,243.00

YEAR TO DATE - FOURTH QUARTER

MINISTRY PLAN PROJECTED

CONTRIBUTIONS: \$228,279.70

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR JANUARY

Lay Reader: Julie Gillespie

Communion Assistants: Del Roy Reichenau & Janet Schmidt

Council Rep. on Duty: Walt Reichenau

Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmberg & Mike Goff

Speaker System: Bob Vacek & Mark Lehmberg

Ushers: Jerry Bearden, Walt Reichenau, Rex & Connie Smith, and Harold Albers

Property Person on Duty: Matt Schmidt

Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Nancy Brown

Parament Chairman: Debbie Nebgen

Communion Chairman: Sherry Schmidt

Women's Bible Study:

Morning Bible Study (January 8 at 10 AM)

Hostess: Alberta Birk

Location: Fellowship Hall

Memorials: Church Office 347-5582

We wish to thank those who have so graciously contributed their time and talents toward the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR MARCH

Lay Reader: TBA

Communion Assistants: Jeff Owen & Mark Lehmberg

Council Rep. on Duty: TBA

Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmberg & Mike Goff

Speaker System: Bob Vacek & Mark Lehmberg

Ushers: Bill Grace, Mike Goff,

Cindy Bowden, & Cathy Grace

Property Person on Duty: Penny Ruthven

Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Sherie Clarkson

Parament Chairman: Connie Smith

Communion Chairman: Amy Brooks

Women's Bible Study:

Morning Bible Study (March 5 at 10 AM)

Hostess: Debbie Nebgen

Location: Fellowship Hall

Memorials: Church Office 347-5582

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Mark Ward

Supply Pastor

Mrs. Ginny Barlow

Church Administrator

Mrs. Ann Mahnken

Youth Coordinator

Church Office Hours:

Mon.-Thu. 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

(325)347-5582 (Office)

(325)347-8420 (Fax)

Email: stpaulmason@gmail.com

Website: www.stpaulmason.com

Mailing: P.O. Box 26, Mason, TX 76856

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR FEBRUARY

Lay Reader: TBA

Communion Assistants: Carolyn Loeffler & Cindy Bowden

Council Rep. on Duty: Janet Schmidt

Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmberg & Mike Goff

Speaker System: Bob Vacek & Mark Lehmberg

Ushers: Penny Ruthven, Glenn Nebgen, Debbie Nebgen, & Bridget Langdale

Property Person on Duty: Del Roy Reichenau

Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Paulette Keller

Parament Chairman: Kassi Reichenau

Communion Chairman: Helen Habecker

Women's Bible Study:

Morning Bible Study (February 5 at 10 AM)

Hostess: Helen Habecker

Location: Helen Habecker's home

Memorials: Church Office 347-5582