



THE PROCLAIMER

October, November,
& December 2026

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

Hello sisters and brothers in Christ. This is the first article that I will contribute to your newsletter – The Proclaimer and I write this as I prepare to move to you all in Texas.

My son Nigel, picked the last of the strawberries from his garden this week, and they were all that remained of his small garden. This prompted a discussion about how gardens whither in the Fall and then what he should plant in the backyard of the parsonage. He talked about how, in particular, asparagus plants needed to be cut down to the soil – so brown fungus would not grow on them and prevent them from growing in the Spring.



People of God, we count on the seasons to come and go. We count on harvests to come because we have this promise from God. Our Lord, says in the book of Genesis chapter 8:

"While the earth remained, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

It is October and now Fall. It is the time of harvest, and an awesome time of year. Did you know that, God gave the Children of Israel, holidays to celebrate their harvest, and ingathering? In Exodus 23 we hear about just such a holiday which is ordained by God:

¹⁰ *"For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, ¹¹ but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what is left. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove. . . ¹⁴ "Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me. ¹⁵ "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread; for seven days eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you. Do this at the appointed time in the month of Aviv, for in that month you came out of Egypt. "No one is to appear before me empty-handed. ¹⁶ "Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your*

field. "Celebrate the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field."



The above picture suggests how we honor God with our first fruits and in the book of Proverbs suggest that you...



It should not be a surprise to you that God has blessed us and our nation. Psalm 104 states:

"LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom have you made them all: the earth is full of Your riches."

The land we call the United States is quite large, one of the largest nations in the world, and is abundant with natural resources. It contains extensive woodlands providing lumber in which to build, and rich top soil in which crops flourish. Our country is capable of supporting 10 billion people. I know I looked it up.

Minerals are here, from gypsum to iron to molybdenum, undergirding a diverse industrial complex. Even America's stone is good, testified to by our enduring monuments and building facades all around the country.

Our climate is most agreeable. Although varying from place to place, all sections are livable and productive. Rainfall is sufficient, and rivers of all sizes distribute water, people, and products. Lots of oil, natural gas, and coal have been discovered here, which have fueled our industrialized economy. More modern fuels, like uranium and geothermal, abound here as well.

The United States is grand and majestic from its mountain majesty to pounding waves of our numerous shores. Those who wrote our nation's documents and laws were God-fearing people, with a basic Christian outlook on life, morals, and government, which set the course for maintaining the freedoms which many in our country, now take for granted.

Consider the charter of our nation, The Declaration of Independence, where it can be read that *"all men are created equal. . . endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights."*

Not all the founding fathers were "Christians," but they acknowledged the truthfulness of the Bible and the authority of the Creator over His creation. They applied these concepts to the legislative process, the judicial system, and standards for life. They devised a system of government *"designed for a Christian people. It is wholly inadequate for any other."*

Look at the world around you and then sharpen your focus to our nation, to our own congregation – to your own family and finally to your personal self. Then make mental selfies of my list of blessings. Now pray about these blessing that we have and then give of your firstfruits to the glory of God.

As we make the seasonal transition from Fall to Winter take some time by yourself to pray the following prayer to your Lord, God.

Most Holy Trinity,

You are a Bountiful Giver of gifts. You provide what we need for abundant living. You give us the strength of our bodies so we can work in Your vineyard, providing for ourselves and those You have placed in our care. We offer You thanks for these gifts, the first and best of what we have, so we will never forget their origin. May they nourish us and others. Make all who see and partake of them marvel at their beauty and usefulness. Make us always mindful of Your rhythmic symphony of life. Our work will not be without difficulties, but we rejoice that the trouble of every kind, will be overcome with Your help. Come, Lord of first fruits, Lord of rejoicing. Join in our celebration as we taste the joy of Your immeasurable love. We pray to You, who have given us these fruits of the land. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

One in Christ,

Pastor Rebecca Mangelsdorf



From Pastor Mark...

On October 25th we will be welcoming Pastor Rebecca Mangelsdorf for her first service as the called pastor of St. Paul Lutheran. Since the 25th is also Reformation, this will be an extra-special service of celebration! As a reminder, in honor of the Holy Spirit, red will be the color of the day, so remember to wear something red that Sunday.

From my own experience, I can say that entering a new call can be a nervous experience – so many names and faces to remember, local history and traditions to learn, on top of just being “new in town”. To try and make Pastor Rebecca’s transition as welcoming as possible, we will be producing a pictorial directory of the members of St. Paul. With the “online” directory, we already have a good start in making this happen, but we would like to make our directory as complete as possible. So if you have not already submitted a picture, please contact the church office. We need all submissions to be in by October 11th. This directory will also be a great tool for welcoming new members to St. Paul.

Another part of our welcome will be to encourage all members to wear nametags for the weeks following Reformation. This will make it far easier for Pastor Rebecca to connect names with faces. Going forward, if you do need to email or text her, please remember to include your name and contact info – as this will not automatically appear on her phone or computer! Pastor Rebecca will have a lot of things on her “to do” list. Figuring who sent her a message should not be one of them!

October 18th will be my last Sunday as Interim Pastor. It has been both my joy and honor to be with you these 3 years. A lot has happened during that time, especially embarking on a new joint ministry with Christ Lutheran. As with any new relationship, working out the details of this partnership will take time, energy, and most especially patience and flexibility. The key will be communication – on the part of everyone involved. Having served both congregations, I am confident that this partnership will not only be successful, but will enable both congregations to thrive. Pastor Rebecca will be your guide and also your resource during this journey, drawing on her years of experience in leading multi-point parishes. Moreover, St. Paul has a wealth of devoted lay leaders with years of church experience. And so I am optimistic about the futures of both St. Paul and Christ Lutheran Churches, especially, that your willingness to work together is a sign that the Holy Spirit is at work among you.

Pastor Mark Ward

OKTOBERFEST AND POLKA WORSHIP

Sunday, October 4

Celebrate our German Heritage! We will sing hymns (in English) to Polka tunes followed by a German-themed meal.

JOINT SERVICE WITH CHRIST LUTHERAN

Sunday, October 4

Christ Lutheran will join us for Oktoberfest and Polka Worship, and the meal following worship.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Morning Bible Study group meets the *first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM*. Hostess for October 7 is Shirley Keller. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Leader will be Alberta Birk. November 4 hostess will be Cindy Bowden in the Fellowship Hall. Leader will be Cynthia Bauer. December 2 Christmas brunch will be at the home of Alberta Birk, 1597 Old Mill Creek Rd. All women of St. Paul are invited. Bring an appetizer/brunch type food dish to share. Program by Ann Mahnken.

PREPARING FOR THE 2027 MINISTRY PLAN

It is time for all Standing Committees to prepare budget requests for the coming year. The Stewardship Committee will begin work on the 2027 Ministry Plan at a meeting in October. *Committees should submit their budget requests to the church office no later than Wednesday, October 14.* The 2027 Ministry Plan will be submitted to the Congregation Council at their November meeting.

ZION INVITATION TO PHANTOM STORY IN SONG

Zion Lutheran Church invites you to “The Phantom Greets the Saints” on *October 25*, the Sunday before All Saints.

Starting at 4:00 PM, the concert of music includes pipe organ solos by Pr. Jonathan Mollenkopf and Bobbye Sawatzky, vocal soloists, hymns, and dancers throughout a narration based on the Phantom of the Opera. Admission is free. Music includes pieces from the long-running Broadway show, and the audience will be invited to join in some of the hymns.

The story of the phantom is reimagined to include the story of redemption in Christ.

Zion is located at 426 W. Main Street in Fredericksburg.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1

On All Saints Sunday, November 1, as we come forward to receive Holy Communion, a member of our congregation will read aloud the names of loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant! You will be invited to share names of your loved ones who have died in the faith so their names may be read.

ADVENT CANTATA

The Mason Community Choir will once again perform the Advent Cantata on the first Sunday of Advent, this year on *November 29*, at First United Methodist Church. This program is sponsored by the Mason Ministerial Alliance and the collection goes to fill their many needs. We will

have our first gathering on Monday, October 5, at 6:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church Sanctuary. There will be a \$10 free-will donation to cover some of the Choirs expenses but is entirely voluntary.

Would you like to join in on this extra special program? We are happy to include any and all who have a love for singing!

CHRISTMAS LUMINARY NEWS

As we celebrate Advent and prepare our hearts for Christ’s birth, the annual St. Paul Lutheran Church sponsored Christmas Luminary drive-through is scheduled for *December 13, from 6:00 – 7:00 PM* in the City Park. Luminary scenes with live characters tell the story of Jesus’ birth, beginning with the Prophecy, through the family’s flight to Egypt. Celebrate the season and support this community outreach event by inviting friends and family to drive through the Luminary.



The Luminary is possible because of your support and the collaboration with area churches, the Parish Education committee for organizing the characters and costumes and the Parish Life committee for providing food.

Assistance is needed in the following areas to make this event a success.

- Loading-up and setting-up the scenes: please meet in the parking lot by the church parsonage garage at 2:00 PM
- Bringing small cuttings of cedar, or yucca plants, for scene decorations: bring the cuttings to the City Park at 3:00 PM
- Taking down the scenes in the City Park after the Luminary finishes: meet at the City Park at 7:00 PM

Your help is greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, contact Janet Schmidt at janetschmidt2@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Each Christmas season the Altar Guild uses poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary. As in past years, you are invited to purchase a poinsettia(s) in honor or memory of a loved one.



Order envelopes will be inserted in the bulletin on Sundays, November 29 and December 6. Please fill out the information on the envelopes, place your payment in it and insert it into the marked box in the Narthex. *Deadline for orders is Wednesday, December 9.*

NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, please contact either Pastor Rebecca Mangelsdorf in the church office or Janet Schmidt at 325-347-4634, janetschmidt2@gmail.com.

2027 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2027 offering envelopes will be available to members in December. Envelopes will be placed on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to use the envelope system and haven't in the past, please let the church office know by *Monday, October 26. Offering envelopes help members give of record.*

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports will be due in the church office on *Thursday, January 7, 2027*. All committees and organizations of the church are expected to turn in reports. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

St. Paul's Closet

- Total deposits from January-August \$3,933.00.
- We average between 20 & 30 shoppers each week.
- The donation and storage units were cleaned up and repainted in March.

MASON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY UPDATE

There are volunteer opportunities each month at the Mason County Food Pantry (mobile market help, packing dry and frozen goods in delivery boxes, home delivery, and produce pick up). Check the weekly email for sign up links and how to donate. *St. Paul's regular distribution day is Monday, October 12th.*

The MCFP can now send out **text alerts** to remind anyone who opts in when events are happening, any delays or early starts due to weather, special events and leftovers that are set out. If you would like to opt in, you can text MCFOODPANTRY to 325-331-5080.

We appreciate all of your service to our community and would love to have you join us for a shift!- MCFP.

In an effort to help support our local Mason County Food Pantry, St. Paul and local area churches will be stocking a list of staples on a regular basis. St. Paul will help with **canned corn, peas and mixed vegetables.** Donations of these canned goods can be dropped off in the Narthex each Sunday and placed in the donation box, or dropped off at the Church Office during office hours (Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM-Noon). *Thank you for helping us meet this need!*



ST. PAUL CELEBRATES OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Bob Capps
5	Dreu Bearden
6	T McIntosh
	Regina Stockbridge
18	Jenna Jacoby
	Hudson Terrell
20	Geraldine Geistweidt
22	Connie Smith
23	Jaxson Reichenau
24	Ron Birk
26	Amy Capps
	Baylee Owen
	Walt Reichenau
27	Janette Tomlinson



ST. PAUL CELEBRATES NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Garrett Allen
	Chel Terrell
4	Lisa Atchison
5	Cason Jacoby
13	Kristy Tinney
14	Rodee Brooks
18	Grant Nobles
21	Nancy Brown
24	Angela Gammill
28	Tanner Reichenau
30	Judy Lehmberg

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Kinsley Atchison
	Cindy Bowden
2	Bridget Langdale
3	Paulette Keller
5	Lynda Harris
9	Dubby Johnson
	Bonnie Schmidt
11	Christian Gammill
23	Mike Parrish
26	Carolyn Loeffler
28	John Parrish

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 dcprobst@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us with this project.

SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

January: Janet Schmidt/Julia Carter
February: Cindy Bowden/Del Roy Reichenau
March: Jeff Owen/Mark Lehmberg
April: Telisa Valentine/Joe Keller
May: Rachel Schmidt/Janet Schmidt
June: Nancy Brown/Jenna Jacoby
July: Helen Habecker/Misty Castillo
August: Jeff Owen/Brandi Nobles
September: Paulette Keller/Julia Carter
October: Tammy Parrish/Del Roy Reichenau
November: Telisa Valentine/Lynn Reichenau
December: Nancy Brown/Helen Habecker

SCHEDULE FOR USHERING

January: Jerry Bearden/Walt Reichenau
Rex & Connie Smith/Dennis Carter
February: Penny Ruthven/Glenn Nebgen
Debbie Nebgen/Bridget Langdale
March: Bill Grace/Cass Castillo
Cindy Bowden/Cathy Grace
April: Jerry Bearden/Del Roy Reichenau
Walt Reichenau/Mark Lehmberg
May: T McIntosh/Paulette Keller
Mike Goff/Stephen Dehlinger
June: Jim Bob Smith/Dennis Carter
Judy Lehmberg/Todd (Kristy) Tinney
July: Matt Schmidt/Joe Keller
Cynthia Bauer/Janette Tomlinson
August: T McIntosh/Mike Goff
Jerry Bearden/Cass Castillo
September: John Gillespie/Chad Schmidt
Nancy Brown/Bert Mahnken
October: LeEster Burch/Chris Habecker/Mike Parrish
Jeff Owen/Brandi Nobles
November: Mark Lehmberg/Nicholas Gierisch
Janet Schmidt/Youth
December: Jim Bob Smith/Josh Brooks
Cynthia Bauer/Jerry Bearden



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved donations for Camp Chrysalis flood relief
- Hosted Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser
- Planning joint church service with Christ Lutheran on October 4, Oktoberfest and Polka Worship Sunday, followed by a luncheon

As we prepare for a new season, the Church Council extends a heartfelt thank you to Pastor Ward for graciously serving as Interim Pastor. It is with deep gratitude that we thank you for your faithful service and leadership to the congregation of St. Paul. We pray for abundant blessings on your next chapter.

With joyful anticipation, we welcome Pastor Rebecca Mangelsdorf to St. Paul! Please join us in prayer for her and her family as they move to Mason. We look forward to officially welcoming her in October.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE

Congregational Giving: \$24,123.25
Expenditures: \$21,147.87

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY

Congregational Giving: \$22,573.00
Expenditures: \$19,270.36

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST

Congregational Giving: \$18,105.00
Expenditures: \$23,160.37

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD QUARTER MINISTRY

PLAN CONTRIBUTION GOAL: \$185,108.25

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD QUARTER MINISTRY

PLAN PROJECTED

CONTRIBUTIONS: \$190,000.00

MONTHLY CALENDAR

The monthly calendar is available upon request by print or email. You may also view our calendar on our website. Please notify the office for more information, stpaulmason@gmail.com or 347-5582.

PROCLAIMER PUBLICATION

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

CHRIST IN OUR HOME booklets for October, November, and December are available in the Narthex and at each of the exits. Please pick up your copy!

STAY UP TO DATE! VIEW THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX FOR NEWS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS!



STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR OCTOBER

Lay Reader: Ron Birk
Communion Assistants: Tammy Parrish & Del Roy Reichenau
Council Rep. on Duty: Mike Parrish
Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmberg & Mike Goff
Speaker System: Bob Vacek & Mark Lehmberg
Ushers: LeEster Burch, Chris Habecker, Mike Parrish, Jeff Owen, & Brandi Nobles
Property Person on Duty: Dennis Carter & Cass Castillo
Memorials: Church Office 347-5582
Altar Guild:
Flower Chairman: Nancy Brown
Parament Chairman: Debbie Nebgen
Communion Chairman: Sherry Schmidt
Women's Bible Study:
Morning Bible Study (First Wed. of month at 10 AM)
Hostess: Shirley Keller in the Fellowship Hall
Leader: Alberta Birk

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR NOVEMBER

Lay Reader: Cindy Bowden
Communion Assistants: Telisa Valentine & Lynn Reichenau
Council Rep. on Duty: Julia Carter
Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmberg & Mike Goff
Speaker System: Bob Vacek & Mark Lehmberg
Ushers: Mark Lehmberg, Nicholas Gierisch, Janet Schmidt, & Youth
Property Person on Duty: Walt Reichenau & Joe Keller
Memorials: Church Office 347-5582
Altar Guild:
Flower Chairman: Paulette Keller
Parament Chairman: Kassi Reichenau
Communion Chairman: Helen Habecker
Women's Bible Study:
Morning Bible Study (First Wed. of month at 10 AM)
Hostess: Cindy Bowden in the Fellowship Hall
Leader: Cynthia Bauer

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR DECEMBER

Lay Reader: Lynn Reichenau
Communion Assistants: Nancy Brown & Helen Habecker
Council Rep. on Duty: Bonnie Schmidt
Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmberg & Mike Goff
Speaker System: Bob Vacek & Mark Lehmberg
Ushers: Jim Bob Smith, Josh Brooks, Cynthia Bauer, & Jerry Bearden
Property Person on Duty: Jerry Bearden & Del Roy Reichenau
Memorials: Church Office 347-5582
Altar Guild:
Flower Chairman: Sherie Clarkson
Parament Chairman: Connie Smith
Communion Chairman: Amy Brooks
Women's Bible Study:
Morning Bible Study (First Wed. of month at 10 AM)
Christmas Brunch for all women of St. Paul. Program by Ann Mahnken. Bring an appetizer/brunch dish to share. Meet at the home of Alberta Birk, 1597 Old Mill Creek Rd.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Rebecca S. Mangelsdorf Pastor
Ann Mahnken Youth Christian Education
Ginny Barlow Church Administrator

Church Office Hours:
Mon.-Thu. 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
(325) 347-5582 (Office)

Worship Service: 11:00 AM
Sunday School: 9:45 AM

Email: stpaulmason@gmail.com
Website: www.stpaulmason.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/elcamasontexas
Livestream of worship service every Sunday
Mailing: PO Box 26, Mason, TX 76856
Physical: 104 S. Magnolia St., Mason, TX 76856

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

*Wishing you the comfort of His love,
And the presence of His peace.*

*Merry Christmas
From the Staff of St. Paul Lutheran Church*

Come let us
Adore
Him

