

St. Paul Lutheran Church

JANUARY

“The Red Brick Church on Ave M”

1303 Avenue M; P.O. Box 58 Hondo, TX 78861

Telephone: (830) 426-3222 or 426-2343

Office Hours: Mon.- Wed. 9am-4pm;

closed on Thursday; Fri. 9am-3pm

E-mail: stpaulhondo@yahoo.com

Website: www.stpaulhondo.org



St. Paul Staff

Senior Pastor: Beverly Kelling

Children & Family Ministry: Laurie Lentz

Office Secretary: Joann Neuman

Financial Secretary: Erin Guenther

MDO Director: Annette Kammer

Music Ministry Coordinator: Jeanette Rath

Musicians

Guitarist: Jody Jacobs & Ben Rath

Pianist: Rhiannon Smith

Organist: Grace Reed

Drums: Rick Brickles

Vocals: Lynda Halbardier, Kathy Carrigan,
Jan Sprenger, & David Hershberger

Violinist: Jeanette Rath

Services

Sunday, 9:00am

Wednesday, 6:00pm

“Come As You Are” Contemporary Worship Service

Church Website: (stpaulhondo.org)

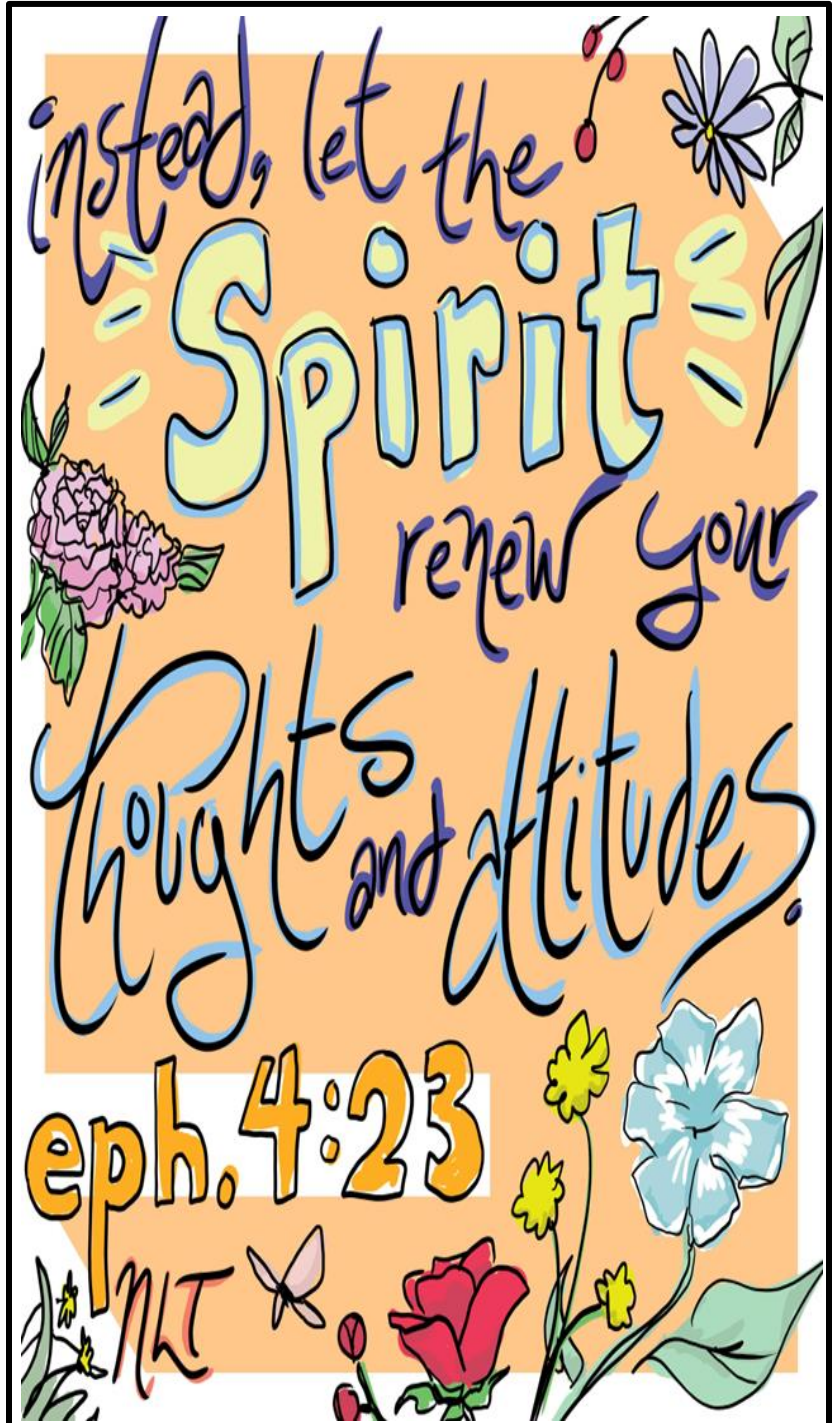
Facebook page: (St Paul Lutheran Church Hondo)

YouTube: (St Paul Lutheran Church Hondo TX)

Current and past Sunday services can be found here.

2023 Council Members

President	Wayne Scholtz
Vice President	Johnette Dixon
Secretary	Roberta Hennig
Treasurer	Pam Westbrook
Evangelism & Mission	Mark Nester
Education Chair	Jay Reed
Fellowship Chair	Robin Green
Property Chair	Stuart Franke
Lay Ministry Chair	Deb Cleary
Worship & Music Chair	Lynda Halbardier





The Red Brick Church on Ave M

*"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win."
1 Corinthians 9:4 NASB*

*"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:14 NASB*

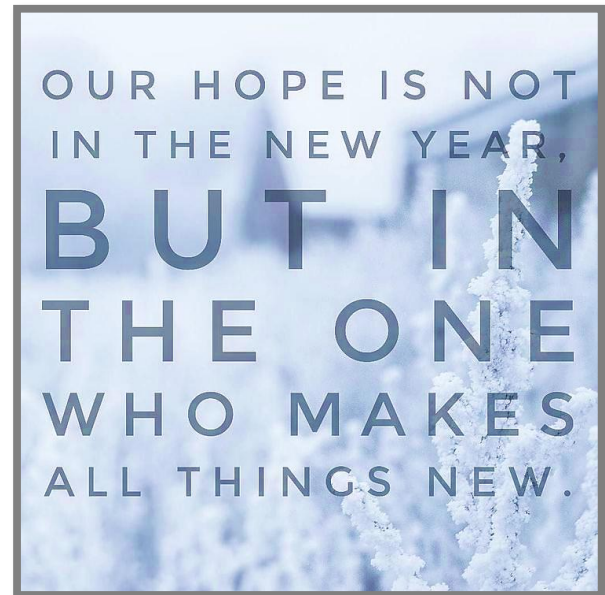
"Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules." 1 Timothy 2:5 NASB

As we come to the new year which is 2024, you may have already made your list of 'New Year's Resolutions'. But did you know 'resolutions' are not in the Bible? Instead, the Bible uses words like 'prize', 'goal' and 'determined'. This got me thinking: What is the difference between a resolution and a prize or goal? Here's what I found: Resolutions are something that you aim for, while a prize or goals are more specific and often about **how you want to finish. This is key!**

Key because we all will have setbacks, stumbles, falls and distractions along our way to the prize. BUT when we focus on the finish, we won't quit (*like 80% of those who by the second week in February give up on keeping their resolutions*); we see there are no shortcuts and that failure is not final, it's an opportunity to learn and grow as we get back up, dust off the dirt, and continue.

Our prize, our goal is victory in Christ!

This may mean we say 'no' to some things, some habits, and some attitudes that are weighing us down. It also means we say 'yes' to what matters most – glorifying God with our time, talents, words, thoughts and body. We work toward this even when it may be new or seem uncomfortable. This year, instead of looking to make a resolution, look to win the prize that is victory in Christ!!



In 2024 a goal is to grow deeper in our faith & understanding of Jesus, so we can be prepared for the changes coming, equipped to defend our faith & come beside those who are lost, in need & searching.

The Gospel of Mark ~ C.I.A. – Christ In Action

January 7: 'Prepare: The Time Has Come'

Psalm 19:7-17
Isaiah 43:15-20
2 Corinthians 5:17-20
Mark 1:12-28

January 14: 'I Am Willing'

Proverbs 4:20, 22-23, 25
Mark 1:29-45
***Nursing Home Service 2:00p**

January 21: 'Walking Away'

Psalm 26:2, 11-12
Romans 4:4-8
Mark 2:1-12
***Confirmation-Frio River**
***January Annual Meeting**

January 28: 'How Dare He'

Psalm 38:3-7
Jeremiah 8:20-22
Mark 2:13-22

*Keep your eyes on Jesus, our righteousness
& the prize for life!!!*

In Christ & with love, Beverly <///>

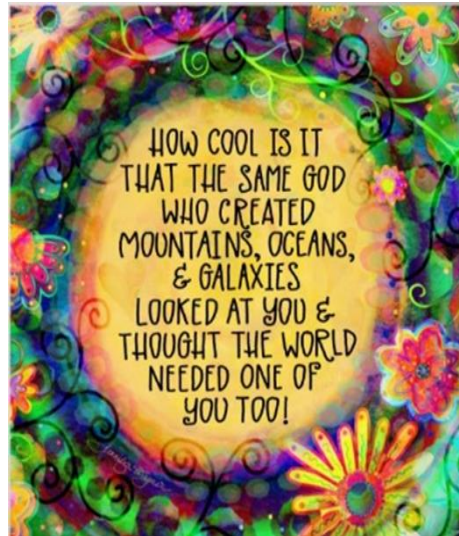
RESPONSIBILITIES

Date	January 7 th	January 14 th	January 21 st	January 28 th
Altar Flowers	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Sanctuary Lamp	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Head Ushers	Deb Cleary Jay Reed	Wayne Scholtz Roberta Henning	Stuart Franke Lynda Halbardier	Robin Green Pam Westbrook
Lectors	Anna Weimer	Janice Wright	Sandy Faseler	Paulette Pyron
Acolytes	Laura & Trey Denman	Emery & Kyleigh Brickles	Joseph Weimer Laken Deleon	Emma Callis Brooklyn Saathoff
Altar Guild	Sarah Bailey, Klaire Bradshaw & Chrie McCue			

Please sign up for Flowers & Sanctuary Lamp, charts are in the Education Building. If you would like for the church to order the flowers, they are \$60.00 please contact the office. Sponsoring the lamp is \$4.00.

BIRTHDAYS

01/01 Erica Halbardier
 01/02 Larry Stewart
 Wayne Scholtz
 Ava Hay
 01/03 Stephanie Summerlin
 Clay Sittre
 01/04 Emma Baxter
 01/05 Tiffany Schuehling
 01/06 Meaghan Timberlake
 Gilbert Uriegas
 01/07 Ashley Anaya
 Starlet Barlow
 01/08 Veronica Nickols
 01/09 Addilyn Beard
 01/11 Avery Dixon
 01/12 Lanell Decker
 Cornell Saathoff
 01/13 Bob Hustede
 Shelby Dixon
 Kyle Anaya
 01/14 Stephanie Laughinghouse
 01/15 Sue Graff



01/15 Nora Luna
 01/17 Debbie Whitehead
 Heath Runnels
 01/18 Laramie Vernor
 01/19 Lisa Maddox
 Jeff Diles
 01/20 Hannah Maddox
 Paige Maddox
 01/21 Peggy Schildt
 01/22 Grace Reed
 01/23 Montie Mumme
 Robert Reed
 01/25 Erin Guenther
 01/26 MJ Neuman
 Matt Hook
 01/28 Jon Barlow
 Laken Deleon
 Bridgette Pinkham
 01/30 Forrest Longoria
 01/31 Patt Farness

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed New Years Day	2 7:00am Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Journaling Study (Edu.Bldg.)	3 9am Tacking Quilters 11:00 BSF (LLB) "Come As You Are" 6pm Worship Service 7:00pm Bible Study	4 Office Closed 1pm Hand Quilters	5	6
7 9:00am Worship TACO SUNDAY 10:00am Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School	8 Cornerstone 10am-2pm 6:00pm (A/C) Women's Study	9 7:00am Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Journaling Study (Edu.Bldg.)	10 9am Tacking Quilters 11:00 BSF (LLB) "Come As You Are" 6pm Worship Service Youth following service 7:00pm Bible Study	11 Office Closed HighSchool BSF 1pm Hand Quilters	12	13
14 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School 2:00pm Nursing Home Service	15 Cornerstone 10am-2pm 6:00pm (A/C) Women's Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	16 7:00am Prayer Warriors 7:00pm Council Meeting	17 9am Tacking Quilters 11:00 BSF (LLB) "Come As You Are" 6pm Worship Service Youth following service 7:00pm Bible Study	18 Office Closed HighSchool BSF 1pm Hand Quilters	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
21 9:00am Worship Annual Meeting 10:00am Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School 2pm-6pm Confirmation	22 Cornerstone 10am-2pm 6:00pm (A/C) Women's Study	23 7:00am Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Journaling Study (Edu.Bldg.)	24 9am Tacking Quilters 11:00 BSF (LLB) Come As You Are" 6pm Worship Service Youth following service 7:00pm Bible Study	25 Office Closed 1pm Hand Quilters 7pm Band of Brothers Meeting	26	27
28 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School	29	30	31			

Pastor Beverly and Mark out on Vacation January 29th- February 4th



Youth and Children of St. Paul



WE NEED YOUR HELP.....WE ARE IN NEED FOR A 3RD/4TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR CONTACT CARRIE WEIMER. GOD DOESN'T CALL THE EQUIPPED, HE EQUIPS THE CALLED.

Blessings to the 3rd graders who received their Bibles on December 6th.
Landon Cortez, Addilyn Beard,
Easton Hennessey, Zackary Barnet,
Millie Morales, Sandy Collins,
Bridgette Pinkham & Bristol Dixon



Thank you so very much for all the help with the Christmas Program. From costumes, to crowd control, but especially to those who helped put the heavy stage up and down. Your muscle is greatly appreciated.



RUMMAGE SALE... Mark your calendars, start your spring cleaning, and purge the stuff you don't need anymore or just want to get rid of. We will start collecting stuff on Sunday, Feb 25th thru Thursday, Feb. 29th. Our sale will be on Friday, March 1st as well as Saturday, March 2nd. This is our second year to open on that Friday so please come help. This is a camp fundraiser so lots of help will be needed.



St. Paul Children & Youth who will be attending Camp Eagle - Summer 2024 will be having a Pizza Night @ Domino's We will receive 20% of all the sales when you mention St. Paul Lutheran Campers when you order. Thank you in advance for your support. Who doesn't love a Family Pizza Night! This is for the Hondo Location only. Watch the bulletin for the specific date.

Best of luck to all the 4H and FFA members who will be participating in the County Stock Show this month as well as any major stock shows. I will try to come watch you show.

Youth/Children lead Worship Service will be on Sunday, February 4th ! Watch the bulletin/texts for more information.

Big Dates in 2024:
Sun, Jan 15th → Confirmation @ The Frio 1-7 pm

January 24-27 → Medina County Jr. Livestock Show

February 4th → Youth/ Children Worship Service & Taco Sunday

February 14th → Ash Wednesday

February 25th → Rummage Sale drop off begins

March 1st & 2nd → Rummage Sale

March 24th → Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt/Potato Bar Fundraiser

April 7th → Confirmation Sun.

Bible Study Opportunities

Kinder-3rd Grade: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays – 4-5:15 pm

4th-6th Grade: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays – 4-5:15 pm

High School Junior/Senior Lunch Bible Study 11:10-11:45 every Thursday

Youth – 7th to 12th grade every Wednesday 7 to 8:15 pm



Camp Eagle 2024 – week of July 15-20th Information about camp is on the back of this page.....

Do you have a child or children attending Camp Eagle this summer? If you do and would like to be in charge of one fundraiser ideas on the back of this page, that would be awesome! You can contact me and let me know which one you would like.

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated with the Camp Fundraisers in November and December. Our Domino's Pizza Nights have been a huge success along with the Dessert Auction and Breakfast with Santa. We are beyond blessed.

Ash Wednesday is February 14th. We will again have families and Sunday School classes bring food, help serve, and clean up for the Wednesday night meals. The schedule will be in the February newsletter.





Camp Eagle Information/Fundraisers

Laurie Lentz

(210) 213-2088 - lentz1to4@gmail.com - PO BOX 58 - Hondo, TX 78861

Camp Eagle 2024

The date has been set - July 15-20th, 2024. The cost will stay the same at \$725 for Headwaters (completed 1st - 6th grade) and \$549 for Group Camp (completed 7th - 12th grade). Registration forms are ready for you to sign up your child or children. A non-refundable deposit of \$150.00 is required to save your camper's spot. To assure your camper or campers have a spot please mail your deposit and registration form by Friday, October 13th.

You are more than welcome to make monthly payments for your camper. Your deposit, registration form, and monthly payments can be mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church - PO Box 58 - Hondo, TX 78861 - attention Laurie Lentz.

If you need more information about Camp Eagle you can go to their website - www.campeagle.org

There are registration forms in a folder outside of my office door in the Education Building.

Fundraisers

Any camper who is attending Camp Eagle is welcome to participate in fundraisers that St. Paul Lutheran is having. Or your home church is more than welcome to have fundraisers to help support your camper as well.

Here is a list of the fundraisers we have tentatively scheduled....

- [Quilt Raffle](#) - Christmas Time
- [Cake Wheel](#) - November 18th @ Christmas in God's Country
- [Dessert Auction](#) - December 17th
- [Art Auction](#) - February 11th
- [Rummage Sale](#) - March 1st & 2nd
- [Potato Bar](#) - March 24th
- [Plant Sale](#) - April 21st
- [Domino's Pizza](#) - Monthly
- [Rent a Kid](#) - throughout the year
- [Taco Sunday](#) - monthly

If you would like to be in charge of a specific fundraiser please feel free to contact Laurie. New ideas or additions are always welcome.

St. Paul Lutheran will again give their church members \$200 to go towards camp. As a thank you, you are asked to help at some of the following events - approx. 20 hours. Here is a list of activities you can help with:

- National Night Out - Tuesday, October 2nd @ need face painters!
- Fall Festival - Sunday, Oct. 29th
- Breakfast with Santa - Dec. 9th -8:30-11 am
- Flags Across Hondo
- Vacation Bible School
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Halloween Night Event in the Activity Center
- Spreading Mulch/Moving

If you have experience in writing grants - like a HEB or Walmart grant please reach out to me.

If you need financial assistance please ask sooner than later.

If you are an adult and would like to be a sponsor for Group Camp please let me know.

As a sponsor at Group Camp, you will be required to stay with a group of campers in the cabin, participate in daily/night activities, and monitor the campers within our group to make sure curfews are kept and behavior is acceptable.

Camp Eagle 2024 - week of July 15-20th

We will be attending Camp Eagle July 15th -20th. The cost for camp is Group Camp \$549 and Headwaters \$725. A completed registration form along with a \$150 deposit is required before your child's spot is reserved. If your child is interested in attending camp next summer please contact me... **If you would like to be a group camp sponsor or sponsor a kid to go to Camp Eagle, please contact me.** Thanks for all the support. This week could make a huge difference in your life. Laurie - 210-213-2088 - **Fundraisers starting in NOW.....Never to early to start planning!!**

XL, XXVIII, XIX



Sunday School(10:30am-11:15am)

3yr old-12th grade:

3-5 yr. old's–LLB– Annette Kammer / Lynda Hook
1st & 2nd – LLB - Jennifer Molitor /Sarah Reus
3rd & 4th – LLB – Becky Burton / Laurie Lentz
5th & 6th – Ed. Bldg. - Geoff Weimer
7th-12th grades- (AC Upper Rooms) –
Pat Cleary/Johnette Dixon

Adult Small Groups:

Study of Hebrews
led by Bob Mayne (O.W.L.S., Act. Center)

“Come and See” led by Ron Sprenger
(Lion’s Den, Legacy Life Bldg.)

“Studying the Books of the Bible”
led by Rod Prewitt (Turtle Room, Ed. Bldg.)

“1 Corinthians” (YAK Class Rm, Ed. Bldg.)

“And never stop praying.” ~ 1Thessalonians 5:17

Healing & Comfort:

Chris Porter, Margaret Reus, Mark Reus, Buffie Rogge, Dorothy Wells, Matthew Hook, Renee Ortiz, Diane Cooper, Henry Nietenhoefer, Zach Smith, Jean Krenmueller, Sandi Schweers, Lance Brucks.

*(Please help us to update, if we need to add or remove someone from the list above please contact the office.)

Active Military:

Larry & Teresa Sullivan, Adriel Schoenhals, Joshua Fair, Rebecca Bryant, Patrick Green, Andy Lynch, Chelsea Lynch, Riley Lynch, Briana Jernigan, Marc Proctor, Kephren Adams, Kendle Adams, Clayton Reed, Les Armstrong, Kelly Driskill, Desiree (Warner) Pointer, Ethan Kammer, Heath Runnels, Collin Bezely, Jessie Philip, Rachel Morgan, Sean Constante, & Jimmy Sawyer Rhodes. Thank you Lord for our military.

*(Please help us to update, if we need to add or remove someone from the list above please contact the office.)

Weekday Bible Study Opportunities:

First and Third Mondays at 7 PM

Men’s Bible Study (LLB) led by Don Krumrey

Second and Fourth Mondays 1:30pm-3:00pm

Friends In Faith (Education Building) led by Pastor Beverly

Mondays at 6 PM

Women’s Bible Study (Education Building)

Tuesdays at 6pm

Journaling & Illustration led by Roberta Hennig (Edu.Blg.)

Topical Study led by Cynthia Nester (LLB)

The Josiah Manifesto to begin in January TBA

Wednesday at 7pm (Following CAYA)

Through the Bible teaching, studying about prophesy and much that has yet to be fulfilled. Currently in Zephaniah. Led by David Hershberger (Activity Center – In class next to the kitchen).

Children/Youth Bible Study Opportunities

Kinder-3rd Grade: 2nd & 4th Wednsdays

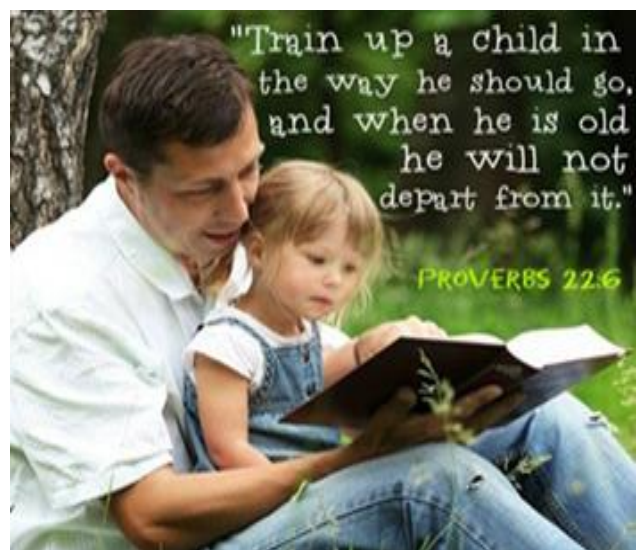
4th-6th Grade: 1st & 3rd Wednsdays

Thursday High School Junior/Senior Lunch Bible Study

11:10am -11:45pm - see the church calendar for dates

Youth – 7th to 12th grade every Wednesday 7 to 8:15 pm

following Come As You Are Service.



HERE AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

“COME AS YOU ARE”

6pm Worship Service

January 3rd – OPEN

January 10th – OPEN

January 17th – OPEN

January 24th – OPEN

January 31st - OPEN



Congratulations to

Will & Valencia Winchester who were united in marriage last month. As your church family we rejoice in your union with the Lord and pray for abundant blessings in the years to come!

Look for further details about a new book study coming in January. Starting date not chosen as of yet. We will be studying the Josiah Manifesto, the latest book by Rabbi Jonathan Cahn. In light of the sobering truths Scripture reveals about the end times, could a blueprint exist showing what you need to know to stand and prevail in the days ahead? In his latest blockbuster book, *The Josiah Manifesto: The Ancient Mystery & Guide for the End Times*, *New York Times* bestselling author Jonathan Cahn opens up the stunning mysteries behind world-changing events of recent times and a hidden message about what lies ahead. Look for more details in the bulletin or contact Cynthia Nester for more details. 210-862-0038.



Prayer Ministry

Email– Don Krumrey: dkrum45@att.net

One – on – One Prayer – offered at the end of service

Contact: Don Krumrey (830-741-9991)

Shirley Krumrey (830-931-4311)

Kathy Carrigan (210-360-0868)

FLAGS ACROSS HONDO

Thank you to all who have helped with this project in 2023.

Renewal letters will be going out in the mail in early January. If you would like to help with this project please let Rick McCue know or call the church office. He has graciously taken over this project for the upcoming year so please volunteer to help him. Flags are placed out 6 times a year. Currently there are 4 groups so if there were 24 people who would help with this project then each person would only have to put flags out once a year. It is not hard and is a great community project.

REMINDER

Mark & Pastor Beverly Kelling will be off January 29th – February 4th for some much needed rest and renewal time. Please be mindful of this and contact Joann or Laurie in the office with any needs you may have during this time.

Lord we pray you will guard their time off. We pray it will be a time of filling and rest as they continue to shepherd and pour into Your congregation. Thank you Lord for the new year ahead, help us to be Your hands and feet in this community and amongst one another.

We are thankful for the Family you have formed here and we pray we may grow as we reach others with Your gospel. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THANK YOU!

Dear friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your kind generosity,
your prayers, and your dedication to the
programs at Restore Reproductive Health.
Your November Sunday School Offering &
Envelope Offering were gratefully received
and will go a long way in assisting
people in difficult circumstances in our
area. May you & yours be blessed in this
coming holy season.

Sincerely,
Deane Cosgrove
Executive Director

Date: December 15, 2023

St. Paul Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 58
Hondo, Texas 78861

Re: Donation- Mission Support
Bluebonnet Children's Center

Dear Church Members,

On behalf of the Bluebonnet Children's Advocacy Center and the children we serve, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your hard work and dedication that led to another, very generous offering of \$500.00 through the November envelope offering. Due to the humanitarian efforts of your gift, we are able to continue to provide a child friendly atmosphere, in our Hondo office, to the children that receive our services.

This gift supports Bluebonnet's efforts in our commitment to help the children of Medina, Uvalde and Real Counties. This continuing support will guarantee our availability to assist our county's most vulnerable- the children.

The mission of the Bluebonnet Children's Center is to lessen the trauma and improve the response to child abuse victims and their families. We house (2) programs: Tri-County CASA and the Bluebonnet Children's Advocacy Center. Our programs serve the families of Uvalde, Medina and Real Counties. We are associated with national and state non-profit organizations working on child abuse and neglect cases, and have been serving these children in this area since April 2001.

The Bluebonnet Children's Advocacy Center is a wonderful program that not only serves these innocent abused children in our community, but also trains local community members to be the child's advocate in court. This is truly a win-win situation for all in the communities.

Thank you for helping us to help the children.

Sincerely,


Edward Gentry
Executive Director



JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING:

Meals on Wheels - Medina County is a 501c3 Non-Profit that provides a nutritious meal for seniors in Medina County. 200 clients are receiving 5 meals a week in Medina County. 75 of those seniors are located in Hondo.

Thank you for your consideration and support of our mission.

We are in need of volunteers if you are interested or have any questions, please call 830-741-6160.



November - December 2023 Memorials

Allan Boehme

Joyce Krenmueller

Stuart Breezee

Joyce Krenmueller

Robert Graff

Robert & Willa Graff

Dennis Herrmann

Phillip & Janice Wright
Steve & Debra Zerr

Nancy Hunt

Rodney & Shirley Karnei
Kevin & Tina Christiansen
Larry & Andrea Bohmfalk

Renie Knappe

Knape/Richter Families
Kylleen Steinmann
Stuart & Elane Franke
Weldon & Mary Knape
Terry & Carol Boening
Ronnie & Melody Muennink
Judy S.
Billy & Brenda Nath
Lawrence & Janis Muehr
Billy & Tana Macha
David Markert & Suzanne Kennedy
Shirley Kuehn
Doug & Sherry Camp
Hanna Family
Nancy M.
SPLC Women
Paul & Beverly Richter

Bill Laughinghouse

Kevin & Tina Christiansen
Steve & Debra Zerr

Richard Lynch

William & Margaret Reus
Chip & Kris Macon
Stuart & Elane Franke
Robert & Willa Graff
Steve & Debra Zerr
Lisa Rothe
Joan Langfeld

Richard & Frances Lynch

Derlin & Roberta Hennig

Barbara Graff Schroder Wright

Robert & Willa Graff

General Fund	\$620.00
Endowment Fund	\$2,389.00
Total Memorials	\$3,009.00

Friendly Reminder

When submitting memorial contributions please provide an address for the acknowledgment card to be sent to. If a memorial is being given in honor of a non-member, we can not send out the acknowledgment without an address.

Thank you.



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



2024... Call to Prayer

For more than a decade, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) has invited members of congregations to engage in an intentional period of prayer at the beginning of each year. Known as "Three Days of Prayer", former LCMC Service Coordinator Mark Vander Tuig established this annual practice to draw our collective attention back to the throne of grace. He boldly shared his conviction that "the church of Jesus Christ will never rise up until it first falls on its knees."

Once again, the call goes out to you and to me. On January 2-4, 2024, we are invited as the body of Christ to follow our Lord Jesus' example to pray, pray, and pray some more! And if you are reading this message after those specific dates, please set aside your own three days of prayer. There's nothing special about the particular days themselves, other than it is an annual reminder to set aside an intentional time for focused prayer.

While we do not need set formulas or pre-written prayers to direct us as we pray, some may find it helpful to prepare prayer guides to focus their time. Consider organizing your thoughts with a list of prayer topics. I would encourage you to set aside specific times of day in which you pause, center yourself before God, and offer your prayers in Jesus' name. For some, the historic practice of pausing for prayer every third hour is a helpful pattern. For others, a morning and evening routine of extended prayer time is more fitting. Still others will gather in groups with their church for a time of corporate prayer on each of the three days. Another idea is to organize a round-the-clock prayer vigil for 72 hours of continuous prayer.

The point is this: *how* we pray is not nearly as important as it is *that* we pray. The same can be said regarding what we pray for. First and foremost, give to God in prayer all that is on your heart and mind. Ask for God to guide you as you pray through the power of the Holy Spirit to bring to mind what to pray for. We trust as the Apostle Paul teaches in Romans 8 that the Holy Spirit will indeed intercede for us when our own words run out.

Our LCMC staff has developed a helpful prayer guide filled with ideas and resources. You can find it at www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer. This year, we are invited to pray for our congregations and leaders, for those who do not yet know Jesus, and for the church around the world, especially our international mission partners. I would also ask that we remember to pray for the raising up and sending out of future ministry leaders. In Matthew 9, Jesus says, "*The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers out into his harvest.*" We have so much for which to pray. As we begin a new year, I pray that we may see God move in and through his church. Let it start with you and me on our knees.

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.



Introducing the all new

CHURCH LEADER TRACK

...6 courses to equip church members to make a BIG impact in their church and beyond.

***Required Courses + Choose 1 Elective:**

- *Old Testament
- *New Testament
- *Evangelism & Discipleship
- *Lutheran Theological Foundations
- *Missional Leadership & Organizations
- Reformation & Lutheran Church History
- Church Planting & Revitalization
- Bible Study Methods
- Care & Counseling
- Preaching
- Worship



www.harvestworkers.net

WINTER RETREAT

Vine & Branches

An LCMC LeaderCare Retreat

FEBRUARY 2024

CONCAN, TX

For LCMC Pastors, Ministry Staff, Seminararians,
Congregational Leaders & Spouses

Early Bird Pricing Ending SOON!

Cost including meals and lodging: **\$125** thru Jan 11

2 Retreat Dates to Choose from:

Feb. 4-6 or Feb. 7-9

Use the QR code to learn more and register:

