

St. Paul Lutheran Church



“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.- Thurs. 9am-4pm;

Closed on Friday

E-mail: stpaulhondo@yahoo.com

Website: www.stpaulhondo.org



JANUARY
2026

St. Paul Staff

Senior Pastor: Beverly Kelling

Children & Family Ministry: Laurie Lentz

Youth Ministry: Jacob Kelling

Office Secretary: Joann Neuman

Financial Secretary: Erin Guenther

MDO Director: Annette Kammer

Music Ministry Coordinator: Jeanette Rath

Music Team:

Jeanette Rath, Jody Jacobs, Rick Brickles,
David Hershberger, Ben Rath, Robert Schildt,
Becky Burton & Anna Weimer.

Services

Sunday, 9:00am

Wednesday, “Come As You Are” 6:00pm

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.

2026 Council Members

President	Wayne Scholtz
Vice President	Johnette Dixon
Secretary	Jenny Lessing
Treasurer	Pam Westbrook
Evangelism	Stephanie Laughinghouse
Education	Marilyn Graff
Fellowship	Paul Ott
Property	Derlin Hennig
Lay Ministry	Deb Cleary
Worship & Music	Lynda Halbardier



A Servant's Prayer

Oh Lord, Give me patience
 As I face each new task
 And the heart of a servant
 With the wisdom to ask,
 How I might build your kingdom
 With the gifts that you give;
 And that all would see Jesus
 In the way that I live.
 Your time is too precious--
 Help me to keep pace
 And to fly through each tempest
 On the wings of your grace.
 And when this race is finished
 How thankful I'll be
 To see the face of the Servant
 Who first loved me !
 Lord, let me be no more than I am,
 A servant, a soldier, a child of the Lamb.
 A vessel unworthy, apart from your power;
 But hearing your heart, Lord, each minute, each hour.
 As I look toward heaven and Jesus, my goal,
 The hand of the Shepherd caresses my soul.
 It beckons me onward to the throne of my King
 Where choruses hallowed eternally ring!

-Arch Brown



The Red Brick Church on Ave M

His question was simple:

**“What Led You to Become an Atheist?”
Reasons Young People Leave Christianity**
December 12, 2025 By David Murray

1. They had attended church: Most of them had a church background and had chosen atheism in reaction to Christianity.

2. The mission and message of their churches was vague: While there were many messages about doing good in the community, “they seldom saw the relationship between that message, Jesus Christ and the Bible.”

3. They felt their churches offered superficial answers to life’s difficult questions: Churches did not address questions like creation vs. evolution, sexuality, reliability of the Bible, purpose of life, etc. Messages were bland, shallow, irrelevant & boring.

4. They expressed their respect for those ministers who took the Bible seriously: This is summed up in one student’s response: “I really can’t consider a Christian a good, moral person if he isn’t trying to convert me.”

5. Ages 14-17 were decisive: Most embraced unbelief in the high school years.

6. The decision to embrace unbelief was often an emotional one: Although all gave rational reasons for becoming atheists, for most there were powerful emotional reasons too—usually associated with suffering.

7. The Internet factored heavily into their conversion to atheism: Instead of being “converted” through the popular New Atheists, most were influenced by YouTube videos and website forums.

How the Church Can Respond

1. The church has to evangelize its own as well as those outside. We can’t assume that just because kids go to church, they are saved and thus will continue to attend. **Our first mission field is our own family and church.** This also puts huge onus on professing Christians to believe, speak and act

consistently because many who left the church were turned off by hypocrisy within it.

2. Our messages must be clear and Gospel-centered. All doctrine, practice, service and devotion must continually be tied to the center of the Gospel, Jesus Christ’s person and work.

3. We must tackle the hard questions: We can’t just preach nice, heart-warming, encouraging & inspiring sermons. We have to face the reality of our current culture & its varied challenges to Christian faith. And if we do engage these questions, we must do so fairly, lovingly and honestly.

4. Evangelize passionately & persuasively:

5. High school years are more dangerous than college years: We can’t wait until college to equip young people with spiritual armor & arms.

6. Appeal to the heart as well as the head: As most people turned to atheism for emotional reasons, usually related to suffering, we must also appeal to their emotions to win them back. We can’t just offer cold logic and philosophy, nor even just biblical truth. We need to communicate love, joy and peace in our witness, as well as offer them an experience of these healing Christian emotions through the Christ who purchased them through His suffering.

7. Use the Internet to promote Christian truth: Many kids are in church & Christian youth groups a couple of hours a week, but are 20 or 30 hours a week online... we need to give healthy alternative to the videos & forums that are overtly and covertly attacking the Christian faith...

We are created for ‘such a time as this’.
Let’s make a difference for our families &
the Kingdom of God TOGETHER!

In Christ, Beverly <///><

This year I’m personally looking to include:

- 1. CAYA services** to share discoveries that reinforce the Bible account (*because there are many, they are amazing & some people still doubt*); also to dive into the teachings of Islam (*because this is beyond cultural, it’s spiritual*)
- 2. A ‘Back to School’** August sermon series to address questions YOU have about a Bible teaching or passage

~ **ANY OTHER IDEAS? PLEASE LET ME KNOW** ~
I’m excited about this new year we are stepping into!

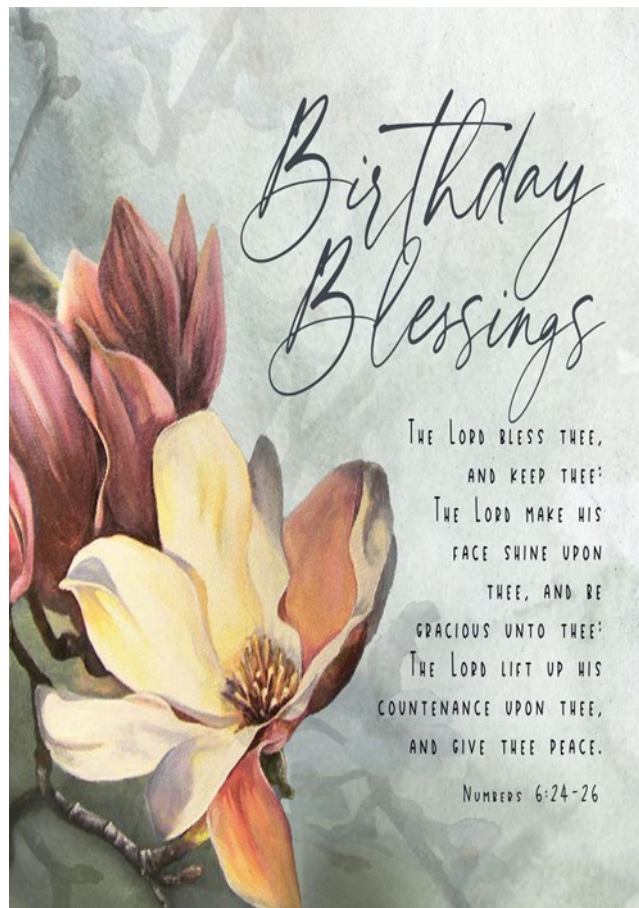
RESPONSIBILITIES

Date	January 4th	January 11th	January 18th	January 25th
Altar Flowers	Sandy & Morris Faseler	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Sanctuary Lamp	Audrey Moncada	OPEN	Audrey Moncada	OPEN
Head Ushers	Johnette Dixon Stephanie Laughinghouse	Deb Cleary Marilyn Graff	Wayne Scholtz Jenny Lessing	Lynda Halbardier Derlin Hennig
Lectors	Debbie Whitehead	Will Winchester	Deb Cleary	Dianne Bradley
Acolytes	Easton Beard Trey Denman	Laken DeLeon Luke Kelley	Witten Reus Wyatt Voges	Bella Contreras Adele Cortez
Altar Guild	Janice Wright & Becky Scott			

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

- 1/01 Erica Halbardier
- 1/02 Ava Hay
Wayne Scholtz
Larry Stewart
- 1/03 Stephanie Summerlin
- 1/04 Emma Baxter
- 1/05 Tiffany Schueling
- 1/06 Meaghan Timberlake
Gilbert Uriegas
- 1/07 Ashley Anaya
Starlet Barlow
- 1/08 Veronica Nickols
Case Schweers
- 1/09 Addilyn Beard
- 1/12 Lanell Decker
- 1/13 Kyle Anaya
Robert Hustede
- 1/14 Stephanie Laughinghouse



- 1/17 Debbie Whitehead
- 1/18 Natalie Graff
Laramie Vernor
- 1/19 Jeff Diles
Lisa Maddox
- 1/20 Hannah Maddox
Paige Maddox
- 1/21 Lottie Porter
Peggy Schildt
- 1/22 Grace Reed
- 1/23 Montie Mumme
- 1/25 Erin Guenther
- 1/26 Matthew Hook
MJ Neuman
- 1/28 Laken DeLeon
- 1/28 Bridgette Pinkham
- 1/30 Forrest Longoria
- 1/31 Patt Farness

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Closed For New Year's Day	2 Office Closed	3
4 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School	5 Cornerstone 10am-2pm 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Journaling	6 7:00am Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Topical Study (LLB)	7 Women's BSF Tack Quilters Highschool BSF Lunch 4pm-5:15pm 4 th - 6 th Bible Study 6pm CAYA Worship Youth following worship 7pm Bible Study (A/C)	8	9 Office Closed	10
11 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School 2pm Nursing Home 4:30pm WWJSWTX	12 Cornerstone 10am-2pm 1:30Friends In Faith 7:00pm Bible Journaling	13 7:00am Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Topical Study (LLB) 7pm Council Meeting	14 Women's BSF Tack Quilters Highschool BSF Lunch 4pm-5:15pm K – 3 rd Bible Study 6pm CAYA Worship Youth following worship 7pm Bible Study (A/C)	15	16 Office Closed Newsletter Deadline	17
18 9:00am Worship Annual Meeting Following Worship Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School Confirmation 1pm-5pm (Frio)	19 Cornerstone 10am-2pm 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Journaling	20 7:00am Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Topical Study (LLB)	21 Women's BSF Tack Quilters Highschool BSF Lunch 4pm-5:15pm 4 th - 6 th Bible Study 6pm CAYA Worship Youth following worship 7pm Bible Study (A/C)	22 7pm Band of Brothers (A/C)	23 Office Closed	24
25 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	26 Cornerstone 10am-2pm 1:30pm Friends In Faith 7:00pm Bible Journaling	27 7:00am Prayer Warriors 6:00pm Topical Study (LLB)	28 Women's BSF Tack Quilters Highschool BSF Lunch 4pm-5:15pm K – 3 rd Bible Study 6pm CAYA Worship Youth following worship 7pm Bible Study (A/C)	29	30 Office Closed	31

Youth and Children of St. Paul

HELLO *january*



Do you have questions.....
You can contact
Laurie @ 210-213-2088 or
Jacob @ 830-741-1045

Blessings to the 3rd graders who received their Bibles on December 10th,
Audrey Denman, Eliana Cruz,
Alex Contreras, Luke Kelley, Lilly Ann Garcia, Aaron Almeida, Samantha Barnet, Ophelia Brown, and Augie Neuman

Bible Study Opportunities
Youth Sunday School is in full swing with a Bible Lesson each Sunday morning. Wednesday Night Youth is also in full swing with a Bible Lesson from 7 to 8:15 pm. Bible Study Lunches each Wednesday
After School Bible Studies
4-6th will be 1st & 3rd –
K-3rd will be 2nd & 4th
from 4 to 5:15 pm



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.



RUMMAGE SALE IS EARLY THIS YEAR

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 1st - Thursday, Feb. 5th. Our sale will be on Friday, Feb. 6th as well as Saturday, February 7th. This is our third year to open on Friday so please come help. This is a camp fundraiser so lots of help will be needed.

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.

On Christmas Eve our family watched The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. I do not ever remember watching this movie before or reading the book. What an amazing movie/book with so many life lessons. Each of us has the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life but the question is - will you? Are you willing to maybe think outside the box and make sure those around you know who Jesus is and not assume they know Jesus? This is my challenge for you in 2026. God bless, Laurie

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Confirmation Dates
Jan 18th (Frio)
Feb 15th
March 15th
April 19th
Confirmation Sunday
Remember to complete your sermon notes

Upcoming Important Dates

Jan. 18th – Confirmation/Frio
Feb 1-5th Rummage Sale Drop off
Feb 6 & 7th – Rummage Sale
Feb 15th - Confirmation
Feb 18th – Ash Wednesday – Soup & Sandwiches begin
March 15th – Confirmation
March 29th – Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt
April 19th – Confirmation Sunday
May 17th – Senior Sunday / Baccalaureate
June 2-6th – Camp Eagle
June 15-19th -VBS
Make sure to read the text block that has the Bible Study Opportunities



XL.XXVIII.XIX



A heartfelt thank you to all who participated with the Camp Fundraisers in November and December. Breakfast with Santa, and Dessert Auction were all a success. Thank you to the Congregation. We are beyond blessed. The youth and children at St. Paul appreciate each of you. God bless

Camp Eagle 2026
The dates have been set-**Tuesday, June 2nd**
Saturday, June 6th Yes **VERY different** dates than in years past. The cost will HW - \$625 and Group Camp - \$479 You will be **REQUIRED** to turn in a **\$150 deposit** to hold your spot. St. Paul will continue to help with the cost if you volunteer with various fundraisers/events. Contact Jacob or Laurie if you are interested in attending in 2026. You can email or text one of us.. If you put \$50 away each month the total doesn't seem to overwhelm you and your family.





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

Children & Youth

3-5 yr. olds-LLB- Rotations

1st & 2nd – LLB - Rotations

3rd & 4th – LLB – Rotations

5th & 6th – Ed. Bldg. - Geoff Weimer

7th-12th grades- (AC Upper Rooms) –

Jacob Kelling / Johnette Dixon / Pat Cleary



Adult Small Sunday 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.)

Study of “Romans” (YAK Class Rm, Ed. Bldg.)

Children/Youth Bible Study Opportunities

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

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

Wednesday High School Lunch Bible Study Fellowship

Youth – See calendar, bulletin and texts.

Normally Wednesdays 7pm to 8:15 pm,
following Come As You Are Service.

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)

Adult Bible Study Opportunities:

First and Third Mondays at 7 PM

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

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

Friends In Faith (Education Building) led by Pastor Beverly
In the book of James.

Mondays at 7 PM

Journaling – Roberta Hennig (Education Bldg -turtle Room)

Tuesdays 6pm (LLB)

Topical Studies led by Cynthia Nester

*Resuming January 13th~ “Know Your Enemy” – Ephesians 5:11

Wednesday at 7pm (Following CAYA)

Through the Bible teaching, studying about prophesy
and much that has yet to be fulfilled. Currently in 2 Kings
jump in & join in anytime, led by David Hershberger
(Activity Center – Behind the kitchen).

Healing & Comfort:

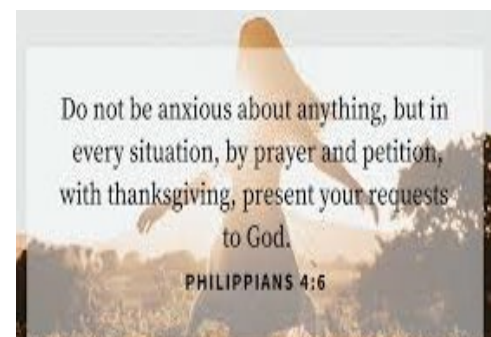
John Massengale, Larry Stewart, Bobby Klein, Cassidy Reus, Bill Reus, Margaret Reus, Buffie Rogge, Howard Saathoff, Henry Nietenhoefer, George Brucks, Sandi Schweers, Helen Ann Jones, Sharon Becksted, Mike Thompson, Lynda Hook, Cindy Sprenger, Claude Cosgrove & Julie Murphy.

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

Active Military

Ethan Kammer, Ben Rath, Larry & Teresa Sullivan, Adriel Schoenhals, Patrick Green, Andy Lynch, Riley Lynch, Les Armstrong, Collin Beazely, Heath Runnels, Sean Constante, Madelyn Acosta, Will Winchester & Jimmy Rhodes.

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



HERE AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking Ahead

- January 1st – New Year’s Day – Office closed
- February 1st – 5th Bring in Rummage Sale Items
- February 6th - 7th – Rummage Sale
- February 18th – Ash Wednesday (Lenten Meals Begin)
- March 29th - Palm Sunday (Easter Egg Hunt following Sunday School)
- April 5th – Resurrection Sunday



New Topical Study ~
“Know Your Enemy”
to begin January 13th,
Tuesday evening @ 6pm.
For more details call
Cynthia Nester (210) 862-0038 or
Joann Neuman at the church office
with any questions.

Anjie Clifton is planning to start a new EVENING Bible study beginning this month for both men and women alike! If you have been wanting this kind of class, please let Anjie, Joann or Beverly know which evening would work best for you as we want this to capture as many who are interested!



RUMMAGE SALE IS EARLY THIS YEAR

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 1st - Thursday, Feb. 5th. Our sale will be on Friday, Feb. 6th as well as Saturday, February 7th. This is our third year to be open on Friday so please come help. This is a camp fundraiser so lots of help will be needed.

“COME AS YOU ARE”

6pm Worship Service

January 7th – Clay Patterson

January 14th – Mark Nester

January 21st – OPEN

January 28th – Pastor Beverly

*If you are interested in giving a Wednesday night message please speak with Pastor Beverly or call the office (830) 426-3222.



January Special Offering ~

Meals on Wheels

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



December 18, 2025



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

Dear Friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the children we serve at Bluebonnet Children's Advocacy Center, I wish to express our deepest appreciation for your generous donation of \$200.00 (Check #14934) which we received to support our work.

Our mission is to lessen the trauma and improve the response to young victims of child abuse and neglect. We provide FREE therapy, art and play therapy for healing, and necessary resources such as clothing, toiletries, diapers, school supplies, etc. I deeply appreciate your trust in our ability and commitment to fulfill this mission.

YOUR gift will support our successful programs to assist our community's most vulnerable — our children — and help them find a better quality of life and a brighter, safer future.

Thank YOU and YOUR congregation for helping us help the children in crisis, especially during this Christmas season. Together, we can ... WE ARE ... making a difference!

Respectfully,

Edward Gentry,
Executive Director

Dear beloved friends at St. Paul Lutheran,
We are so very thankful for your dedicated support of Restore Reproductive Health and the important work we do to provide life affirming care to people in difficult circumstances here.
Your partnership with us to the glory of God is vital to our success + mission.

Bless you,
Diane Casgrove
Executive Director

12-2025

December 17, 2025

St Paul Lutheran Church
PO Box 58
Hondo, TX 78861

Dear St Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$200.00 (Check#14954) received on December 12, 2025. Words cannot express my gratitude enough.

Your loyal commitment to the growth and development of Medina Senior Center / Meals on Wheels Medina County is essential to our mission, and helps us achieve our vision to promote the dignity, value, health and security of homebound Medina County seniors in need of nutritious meals, friendly companionship and related resources.

Through your support of Medina Senior Center Inc., you ensure the needs of seniors in our community are met. We are forever grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Warm Regards,

Barbara Losack
Client Services
Medina Senior Center Inc.
Meals on Wheels Medina County
Federal Tax ID # 20-2930783



Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST
WORKERS

Celebrate Jesus

Amid the twinkling lights and festive cheer, it's easy to forget why we celebrate Christmas. We can get caught up in the hustle and bustle of it all: parties and programs, gift buying and cookie baking, travel planning and family gatherings. All the activity of the season can crowd out the real meaning and purpose for the holiday itself. While we may say "Jesus is the reason for the season," what does that really mean for us today? What if an often overlooked Bible story can help us reconnect our celebrations to the true gift of Christmas?

One cold December Sunday when I was in the first grade, I got to read my very first verse with my own eyes out of a real Bible. I still remember it to this day. In Sunday School, we studied a part of the Christmas story that is rarely talked about. The lesson came from Luke 2 and was about Simeon meeting the baby Jesus in the temple. Simeon was a righteous and faithful man who had been waiting for God to send the Messiah to bring salvation to Israel and hope for the world. In fact, the Lord had promised Simeon that he would not die before seeing the Messiah.

We read aloud Luke 2:29-32: "Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said, 'Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. For my eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.'" And just like that, my eyes were opened to see Jesus as the true gift of Christmas. Here Simeon sees and responds joyously and faithfully to God's grace in giving Jesus to the world. Can't you just picture the joy Simeon must have experienced as he lifted baby Jesus, praising God and delighting in his goodness and mercy!?

Then as Luke 2 continues, we are introduced to Anna, an elderly widow who had dedicated her life to serving the Lord in the temple, to prayer and to fasting. She, too, met baby Jesus that day and began praising God and telling everyone that he was the Messiah, the long-awaited anointed one who had come into this world to bring salvation.

I love the story of Simeon and Anna as it reminds us what Christmas is really about. The world is in desperate need of Jesus, the Messiah. Like Simeon and Anna, we are invited to recognize and rejoice with a deeper appreciation for the gift that Jesus is to the whole world. We rejoice and celebrate this season full of hope and gratitude. Our faithful response in celebrating Jesus' birth should be like theirs: gleefully praising God and telling others what this means not only for us, but for everyone who calls on His name.

This Christmas, pause and ask: How can my celebrations better reflect the joy of meeting Jesus, the promised Messiah and savior of the world? May our response give glory, honor and thanks to God. And let us share the Good News with a lost and broken world desperately in need of all that Jesus came to give. **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.** So let's celebrate Jesus!

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.

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January 2026