



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our Hands

Messenger

Newsletter of Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange, Texas



It is important for us in the busy season leading up to Christmas that we pause and reflect on what Christmas is all about.

All Advent offerings and meal offerings will go to Second Chance Building Fund.

Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday following the 10 a.m. service. *Please join us!*

Advent Services

will be held Wednesdays during Advent

10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

November 29, December 6, 13, and 20

2017 Christmas Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 23

5 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, December 24

9 a.m. Praise Worship Service

5 p.m. LYO Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

9 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

Sunday, December 25

9 a.m. Christmas Worship Service

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

SAINT PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, CARES, SHARES, AND PROVIDES CHRISTIAN GROWTH OPPORTUNITY TO OUR COMMUNITY.

A Message from your Pastor:

The holiday season is filled with lots of emotions. Along with the feelings of joy, anticipation, gratefulness and thanksgiving, we may also find ourselves feeling a little anxiety, maybe mixed in with some grief, and loneliness and/or regret. It feels like there are no yearly holidays that bring out the whole gamut of emotions like the “triangle” of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. Now, into that soup, throw in the personalities and seasonal emotions of those around us. What we get may be as clear as broth or as mushy as pea soup!

It's best to acknowledge all of those emotions as we would guests at the table. Each has a place. Each has value. But, since I'm not a professional mental health professional, let's move on from that.

During the Advent season this year we will be looking to the scriptures to see how people, who were actually present around this holy time, reacted to these events. We will be looking at Zechariah's (Elizabeth's husband) fear, Joseph's confusion, Mary's doubt, and the shepherd's curiosity. Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds were all very ordinary people.

My hope is that as we read these stories and see their reactions, we might give ourselves permission to feel what we feel during this season, and to show some grace and mercy to ourselves and others.

God's grace and peace to you this holiday season.

Thanks be to God,
Pastor Candy

Confirmation 2017-2018

December 6 - Advent Worship (6:30 p.m.)
December 13 - Advent Worship (6:30 p.m.)
December 20 - Advent Worship (6:30 p.m.)
December 27 - NO CONFIRMATION (Christmas Break)
January 3 - NO CONFIRMATION (Christmas Break)
January 10 - meal by Brett & Laura Wolff
January 17 - meal by Edward Halpain & Candace Petras
January 24 - meal by Tammy Kutac
January 31 - meal by Rhonda Bloodworth

A.M.E.N. St. Paul Volunteer Schedule

Monday (9-11 a.m.); Thursday (1-3 p.m.)

December 11 & 14

Second Chance St. Paul Volunteer Schedule

Tuesday - Saturday, (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.); Monday, (8 a.m.)

January 2-8, 2018

St. Paul's Choir and First United Methodist's choir
are joining Sunday, December 17 for 2 performances!

9 a.m. at St. Paul w/ light refreshments after the service

2 p.m. at First United Methodist

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Since a good number of flowers (Christmas and Easter) are always left for someone to dispose of, we decided to try something new. We only ordered 16 regular size plants (to fill our flower tree stand) and 2 Altar arrangements.

You may still donate in memory of or in honor of loved ones and your name will be listed in the bulletin like before.

If you'd like to make a donation toward the poinsettias, please do so (you pick the donation amount). The regular size poinsettias can be picked up (by anyone that wants them) after the service on Christmas morning.

_____ (Your Name)

(in memory / in honor of)



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED (CWU) TOY DRIVE



CWU recently met to plan the 2017 Annual Toy Drive that it coordinates with area churches. Toy Drive dates are November 20-December 4. Toys will be bagged Tuesday, December 12 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8:30 a.m. Anyone wishing to help bag toys is welcome.

Each year area churches collect toys for **infants through age 14.**

Participating churches are First Baptist, Second Baptist, Sacred Heart Catholic, St. James Episcopal, Mt. Calvary, St. John (Rutersville), St. Paul, First United Methodist, and First Presbyterian.

Collection boxes will be placed in each of these churches. New toys are appreciated. Please include batteries with toys that require them. A list of popular items: books, puzzles, games, cards, dolls, earbuds (for working on projects at school - these hook up to phones, Ipads, etc.), Legos, building blocks, cars, trucks, trains, play doctor kits, art kits, backpacks, purses, scarves, basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, volleyballs, etc.

Monetary donations should be sent in check form to: Church Women United, PO Box 56, La Grange, TX 78945.

Mannie Fritsch-Schmid and Amalia Woolf are St. Paul's CWU representatives.

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS! Church Women United teamed up with Fayette County Children's Welfare to brighten some children's Christmas'. St. Paul WELCA picked children to sponsor and their gift wishes are posted on a tree in the Narthex. (This program is in addition to the CWU Toy Drive!) Most of the tags were picked up the first weekend the tree was out, but FCCW can always use monetary donations!

Here's how you can support this cause:

- Make a monetary donation by writing "Children's Christmas" on an envelope and putting it in the offering plate. This money will be used to buy gifts for the children and you will receive credit on your Giving Statement.
- Pick a "card" from the tree, purchase the gift, and bring it back to the church (with the card) by December 13. Wrapped gifts are appreciated, but not necessary, but please make sure and attach the "card" to your gift.



Ready to enjoy an evening of wonderful Christmas/Advent music? In January? Our Colorado River Conference Lutheran Churches gather together in early January to relax together, enjoy music and raise money for a good cause. We ask congregations, choirs and individuals to brush up on something they've done for Advent or Christmas and bring it to new, appreciative ears.

This year's concert will be on Sunday January 7 at Trinity Lutheran in Frelsburg beginning at 4:00 pm. Our offering will be given to Live On, the synod's endowment fund which gives grants to seminarians to fund seminary education, supports campus ministry and funds new start congregations. For more information about Live On visit www.liveongenerously.org Cookies, punch and fellowship follow the concert. If you have a musical or poetry offering, please contact Riana Jameson at rianajam@yahoo.com or 979-732-1851. She will also answer any questions you may have. Blessed Christmas to you all!

The church office will be closed Monday, December 25-January 2.
Call Pastor Candy, 979-966-2459, for emergencies.

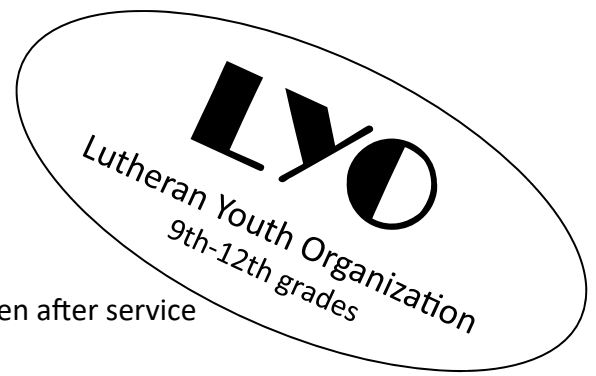
*St. Paul's Pastor and Staff wish you a safe and
blessed Christmas!*

COUNCIL POSITIONS: It is once again time to find members to run for Congregation Council positions for 2018. If you are interested, please let the office know.

Council positions are elected for 2 year terms at the annual meeting.

This year, the Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 28, 2018.

Please consider serving on Congregation Council. Meetings are only once a month and these leadership positions are very important in helping St. Paul in its Mission Statement to "care, share and provide Christian growth opportunities."



December:

3 – 4:00 PM **LYO Progressive Dinner**

6 – 6:30 PM **Advent Service**

13 - 6:30 PM **Advent Service**; Shopping for Christmas Gifts for Children after service

24 – 5:00 PM **LYO Christmas Eve Worship Service**

Email stpaullyolg@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is Sunday, December 10. After communion, children of all ages will gather in the Fellowship Hall with Caleb for Sunday School. If parents would like to bring breakfast items, it would be appreciated.

During this time of year, we publish a list of our senior membership who are homebound or residing in nursing centers. Please consider visiting, calling or sending a greeting card during the holidays (or anytime during the year.) This may be a ministry your family would enjoy together. Contact the church office, 968-5657 or stpaul@cvctx.com, for their home addresses and/or phone numbers.

At home:

Verlene Citzler, Juanita Frels, William & Rose Hunger, Elton & Ruby Jochen, Estella Lueders , Claude Mertz, Mary Ann Miller, Shirley Spacek, and Lucille Warnken

Mariner Health Care, 318 Chambers St., Marlin, TX 78734:

Ora Lee Roscher

Monument Hill Nursing Center, 120 State Loop 92, La Grange, Texas 78945:

Lorene Kirkpatrick, Verlene Noak, Lorine Sunderhuse, Aleya Voss

Jefferson Place, 911 S. Jefferson St., La Grange, Texas 78945:

Ruth Ashley, Albert Loehr, Lucille Voelkel

Schulenburg Regency Nursing Center, 111 College St , Schulenburg TX 78956:

Shirley Ehler, Ore Nell Frerichs

Bastrop Nursing Center, 400 Old Austin Hwy, Bastrop, TX 78602:

Johnnie Roberson, Pearlle Tumis (Peggy Johnson's mother)

Bastrop Lost Pines Nursing & Rehab Center, 430 Old Austin Hwy, Bastrop, TX 78602:

Glennie Oppermann

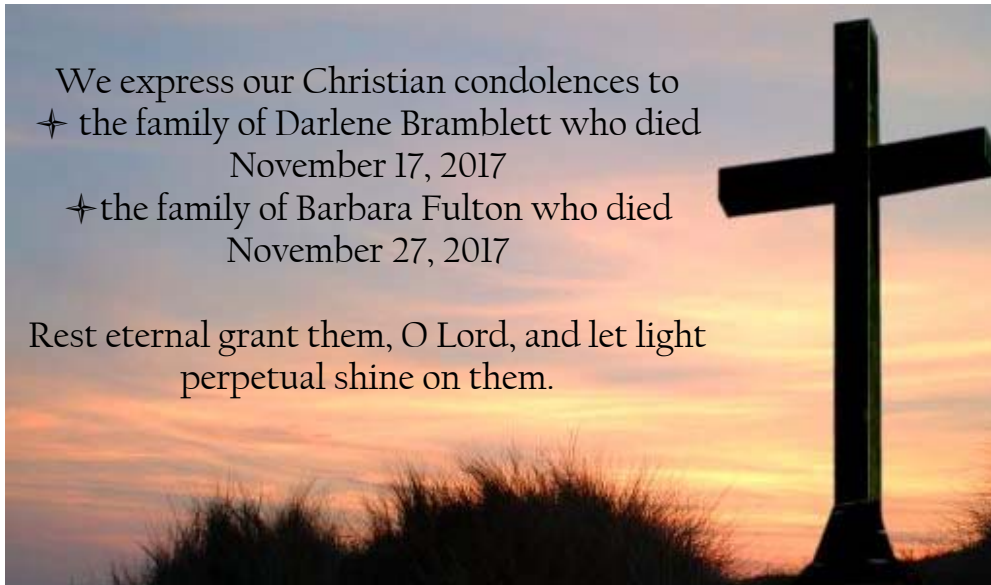
Oakland Manor, 1400 N Main St., Giddings, TX 78942:

Lloydell Keilers

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

We express our Christian condolences to
✦ the family of Darlene Bramblett who died
November 17, 2017
✦ the family of Barbara Fulton who died
November 27, 2017

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light
perpetual shine on them.



CONGRATULATIONS to B.J. & Catie Moerbe on
the birth of their son, Branson James Moerbe,
who was born November 14, 2017.

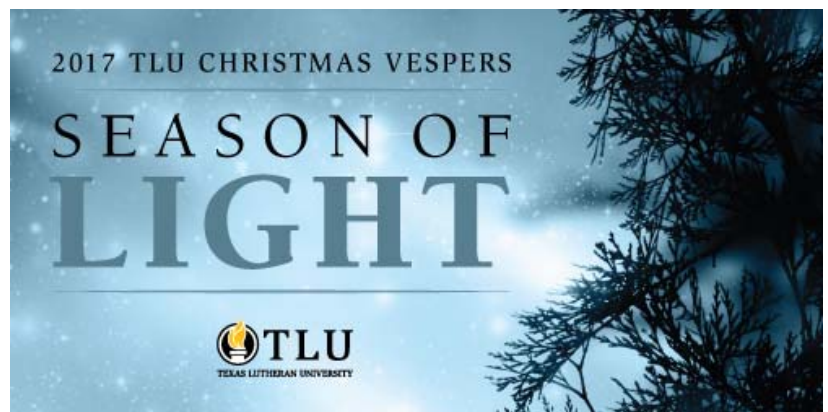
Branson's proud grandparents are Darrell & Lori
Moerbe.



DIRECTORY RE-TAKES/MAKE UPS will be Monday, December 11
from 2:30—8:45 PM IF we have enough people sign up.
Please contact Melinda in the church office if you are interested.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

2	Joy Kuehn, Dawn Porter, Susan Roden			
3	Amanda Hunger, Kyla Pietsch, Tootsie Tiedt	Jim & Carolyn Buchanek	Dec 5	30 yrs
4	Colby Jochen, Tracye Jones, Jen Kindsvatter	Charles & Wendy Friemel	Dec 8	7 yrs
5	Bea Rost	Tom & Diana Glynn	Dec 10	40 yrs
7	Mindy Davis, Melissa Oehlke, Clay Wolff	Tim & Susan Knesek	Dec 14	32 yrs
8	Emma Fitzpatrick, Marjorie Hackemack, Bill Schneider	Mike & Paulette Sturrock	Dec 22	44 yrs
9	Kay Dippel, Kayla Elles, Silas Hernandez, Hunter Sabo, Joy Skelton	A. C. & Annazell von Minden	Dec 23	63 yrs
10	Lance Stancik, Ty Toddy	Henry & Gladys Weber	Dec 27	58 yrs
11	Donnie Dippel, Holly Howard, Alexia Jones	James & Sharon Elias	Dec 31	40 yrs
12	Conner Cantwell, Holly Fritsch	Scott & Kathy Toensing	Dec 31	31 yrs
13	James Boyd, Scott Byler, Marsha Pietsch			
14	Wendy Friemel, David Jochen, Karen Mayer			
15	Meredith Berger			
16	B. J. Moerbe			
17	Agnes Hannes			
19	Gloria Baumbach, Brandon Byler, Heather Slauenwhite			
21	Danna Radcliff			
22	Byntlee Bishop, Kathie Nitsche			
23	Ruth Ashley, Lisa Grimes, Zion Hernandez			
24	Destiny Psencik, Raelynn Richter			
25	David Ehler, David Schneider			
26	Cody Karisch, Matt Miller, Florence Otto			
27	Trey Cunningham, Lucille Warnken			
29	Everett Maas, Paul Mikula, Justin Wright			
30	Keslyn Davis, Odis Pfeiffer, Johnnie Roberson, Austin Spann			
31	Toni Keilers			



In preparation for the Christmas season, Texas Lutheran University hosts its annual Christmas Vespers service. This celebration of music and word honors the integral role music has played in Texas Lutheran's curriculum and religious and cultural history. Audiences take advantage of the opportunity to hear the ethereal voices of the TLU choirs each year.

CHRISTMAS VESPERS 2017: SEASON OF LIGHT

Titled "Season of Light," this year's Vespers service of word and music will feature the TLU Choir, TLU Women's Choir, Kantorei Chamber Choir, and the TLU Symphonic Winds and Percussion. The music for this service will focus on Advent as the season of hope; honoring the strength of the human spirit, even in the most difficult of times. San Antonio actress, Sam Carter Gilliam, will perform short monologues between the musical numbers which lend context to the music being performed.

Christmas Vespers will be held in TLU's Jackson Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2; and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3. All Vespers services at TLU are free and open to the public, but tickets are required due to limited seating.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	27 8:00 AM Quilters 6:00 PM Investment Cmt.	28 6:00 PM Council Meeting	29 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 10:00 AM Advent Worship 10:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM WOW 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Advent Worship 6:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM Senior Choir	30 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Bramblett visitation @ St. Paul	1 2:00 PM Bramblett funeral @ St. Paul	2 5:00 PM Worship
3 9:00 AM Praise Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School LYO Progressive Dinner	4 7:00 PM Friends in Faith	5 2:00 PM Afternoon Circle	6 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 10:00 AM Advent Worship 10:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM WOW 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM Senior Choir	7	8 Decorate for Baby Shower	9 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Baby Shower in Fell Hall 5:00 PM Worship w/ Arlund baptism
10 9:00 AM Worship w/ Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday School	11 9:00 AM AMEN 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM CWU Toy Sorting 6:30 PM Fishers of Men	12 8:30 AM CWU Toy Packing	13 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 10:00 AM Advent Worship 10:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM WOW 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM Senior Choir	14 1:00 PM AMEN 6:00 PM Investment Cmt.	15	16 5:00 PM Worship
17 9:00 AM Worship w/ Community Choir Cantata 10:30 AM Sunday School 2:00 PM Choir Cantata at Methodist Church	18	19 2:00 PM Ladies Aid	20 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 10:00 AM Advent Worship 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Worship	21 6:30 PM Young Adults Group at Hartmann's 6:00 PM Council Meeting	22	23 5:00 PM Worship
24 9:00 AM Praise Worship 5:00 PM LYO Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 AM Christmas Worship	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 5:00 PM Worship
31 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 4:15 PM Monument Hill Worship	1 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM Friends in Faith	2 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM - 3 PM 2nd Chance 2:00 PM Afternoon Circle	3 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 9 AM - 3 PM 2nd Chance 6:30 PM Agape/Wolfpack 7:00 PM Senior Choir	4 9 AM - 3 PM 2nd Chance	5 9 AM - 3 PM 2nd Chance	6 9 AM - 3 PM 2nd Chance 5:00 PM Worship

	5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Dec 2 & 3		
Ushers	Edmund & Betty Anders	Diane Berger Faye Bresan Delores Bayer Janet Coronado
Lectors		
Acolytes	Clay Wolff	Garrison Bage
Altar Guild	Annette Citzler	Gloria Raschke
Flowers		
Dec 9 & 10		
Ushers	James & Kathy Brewer	Howard & Phyllis Bohot Gene & Sherry Jaster
Lectors		
Acolytes	Maddi Mach	Nikki Porter
Altar Guild	Faye Bresan	Tanya Psencik
Flowers		
Dec 16 & 17		
Ushers	Billy & Christine Nietsche	Wess Blackwell Family
Lectors		
Acolytes	Clay Wolff	Cole Stork
Altar Guild	Janice Homeyer	Velrie Prause
Flowers		
Dec 23 & 24	5 p.m.	9 a.m.
Ushers	Jackie Skelton Todd Wolff	David & Patti Ehler Frank & Sandra Teykl
Lectors		
Acolytes	Gunner Jurek	
Altar Guild	Annette Citzler	Ginger Friemel
Flowers		
Dec 25	9 a.m.	
Ushers		
Lectors		
Acolytes		
Altar Guild	JoLene Hughes	
Flowers		
	5 p.m.	9 a.m.
Dec 30 & 31		
Ushers	Don Koehler Rhonda Koether	Tim & Susan Knesek Ralph & Faith Frerichs
Lectors		Sid Roden
Acolytes		Berkleigh Arthur
Altar Guild		Sid & Susan Roden
Flowers		Christmas Flowers

Christmas Eve 5 p.m. LYO Service

Ushers: Wayne Anders Family, LYO

Acolyte: Berkleigh Arthur

Altar Guild: Lisa Moellenberndt

Christmas Eve 9 p.m. Service

Ushers: Scott Toensing Family

Acolyte: _____

Altar Guild: Lisa Moellenberndt

Saint Paul Organizations & Groups

If your group has a special event planned, let us know by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the newsletter. Any of these organizations and groups would be pleased to have you become a part of their ministry and activities. Make plans to attend the next gathering or meeting!

Afternoon Circle meets the first Tuesday, **December 5**, 2:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall for their Christmas party.

Fishers of Men will meet Monday, **December 11**, 6:30 p.m. at Tim & Susan Knesek's home for their Christmas party. Shawn, Tim & Ralph will co-host. Bring a snack to share. You are invited to join us!!

Friends in Faith meet Monday, **December 4**, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Kathy Toensing. We will make our traditional fruit baskets. Bring items for the baskets. We will also have a special love offering. All are asked to bring snacks to share!! You are invited to join us!

Ladies Aid will not meet in December.

Tacky Tuesday (Lutheran World Relief Quilt-Tacking) will not meet in December. They will resume meeting the third Tuesday in January, 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. No experience necessary. Join us for fellowship, food and a worthwhile project.

Come Quilt With Us – **Monday Morning Quilters** quilt every Monday at 8:00 a.m. Beginners as well as quilters are always welcomed!! See you in the Quilting Room.

Cut-Ups On Wednesday Mornings—We iron and cut squares the first and second Wednesday of each month for the LWR quilts. We also prepare the kits for sewing tops. If you have a couple hours or more, join us at 8 a.m. **Note:** We will not meet in December, so make plans to come in January!

The Altar Guild meets quarterly. Their next meeting is Tuesday, **February 13**, 4:00 p.m., in the Friendship Room.



We would like to thank you for allowing An'na, myself and our children the ability to stay in your rental house for October and November and giving us a chance to figure out our next move after losing our home during "Harvey". You have given us the true meaning of a "Church Family," and we will never forget this act of kindness.

May God bless you all,
Matt Jaster, An'na Loehr and Family



Thank you to everyone that helped with our tamale sale and everyone who purchased tamales!! We are very lucky to have the constant and generous support of our St. Paul church family. We still have several dozen frozen spicy tamales for \$9 a dozen - contact the church office.

Sincerely,
St. Paul LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization)

Saint Paul 2017 Congregation Council

Glenn Davis, President

Gene Jaster, Vice-President

Linda Anders, Secretary

Gail Cook, Treasurer

Katy Adams, Youth & Parish Ed

Scott Toensing, Property

Dianne Lude, Worship

Don Koether, Mutual Ministry

Debbie Busch, Stewardship & Outreach

Parish Office Hours:

Monday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday

(closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.) 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.-noon

Office Phone: 979-968-5657 Fax: 979-968-6950

Pastor Cell Phone: 979-966-2459

Fellowship Hall Phone: 979-968-9603

www.stpaulg.org

stpaul@cvctx.com

Saint Paul Lutheran Church Leaders

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, *Senior Pastor*

pastorcandis@gmail.com

(979)966-2459

Caleb Parks, *Faith Life Leader*

stpaulfaithlife@gmail.com

(512)944-7859

Melinda Zajicek, *Office Administrator*

stpaul@cvctx.com

(979)820-8793

Sherise Davis, *Organist*

Bonnye Karger, *Organist*

Jean McHenry, *Organist*

Kathy Toensing, *Adult Choir/Praise Band Choir*

Sharing & Caring the Love of Christ

Messenger Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul Lutheran Church

December 2017

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

PO Box 567

La Grange, Texas 78945

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

La Grange, Texas

Permit No. 83

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Pray for Peace!

FRANK & NORMA ADAMS

2236 GUENTHER RD

LA GRANGE TX 78945-6117