



Partners in Faith

December 2020

St Paul Lutheran Church in
Phillipsburg
2739 Phillipsburg Church Rd,
Brenham TX 77833

St James Lutheran Church in
New Wehdem
10362 New Wehdem Rd
Brenham TX 77833
979-836-2795

www.sjsplutheran.org

Your gift goes on to
make a real differ-
ence in the lives of
people around the
world.

You can learn more at
this site:
ELCA.org/goodgifts

The Joyful Noise

United in Grace. Serving in Love.



2020 ADVENT PROJECT: ELCA GOOD GIFTS

This year has been like no other. We mourn the extensive loss of life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and view with concern the growing rate at which our neighbors in the United States and all around the world are experiencing hunger and poverty. With one tragedy after another, **the ELCA is right in the thick of it—where God calls us to be.** You can choose meaningful gifts in honor of loved ones while sharing the love of Christ with those in need by supporting our Advent Good Gifts Project.

- Choose a life-changing charitable gift such as a goat for a family in need, personal protective equipment for a front-line worker, or a water well for a community—and give a donation in honor of a friend or loved one.
- Get an ornament from the tree in the back of the sanctuary and FLC at St. James, or from the back of the St Paul sanctuary.
- Return the ornament and your donation to either church by December 20.—checks can be made out to the church, and then we will complete a group order all together.

*Thanks to Jackie & Betty Bowden for preparing
the St. James Advent Trees*



A Holy Land Pilgrimage: 10 Days in Galilee, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem - January 2022

**Informational Meeting to learn more – Sunday, January 10th
11:30am at St James FLC**

After traveling to Israel and Palestine as a seminary student, Pastor Evan has always dreamed of organizing such a trip for congregations.

We are releasing some of the early details now to raise some interest in this once-per-lifetime opportunity. Experiencing the land where Jesus walked allows you to see the Bible with totally different eyes, and to experience an awakening of faith and spirituality.

Pastor Evan has been working with a travel company to plan a trip that is ambitious but not overwhelming, with an emphasis on visiting biblical sites. Given the rich, complicated, and beautiful culture and history of the Holy Land, there is simply no other place in the world quite like it.

Dates: Depart Thursday January 6 2022 Return Monday January 17 (10 days of sites, 2 travel days)

Group Size: Room for 34

Logistics: We will stay in comfortable hotels, and travel via a private coach. We will be led by a local, veteran guide to educate us at our various stops. Maximum walking in a day – 2-3 miles.

Big Picture Itinerary: 1 night in Tel Aviv, 3 nights on the Sea of Galilee, 2 nights in Bethlehem, 4 nights in Jerusalem

Current Cost Estimate: \$1900 for “land” portion, plus flight (estimated at \$1000). After getting quotes from several travel companies, PE is confident this is a competitive price for the quality of our guide and hotels. It includes everything except a few lunches, drinks beyond water, and souvenirs.

A brief sample list of what we might see/do:

Ride in a boat on the Sea of Galilee (and pray for no sudden storms!)

Explore Nazareth, including the possible childhood home of Jesus

Wade into the Jordan River, and explore just how desolate the wilderness is surrounding it

Discover the depth of Jacob’s well from John 4

Wander through the shepherd’s fields on the outskirts of Bethlehem

Float in the Dead Sea

Eat lots and lots and lots of delicious Mediterranean food (*if you don’t know what schawarma and falafel are now, you will soon!*)

Walk the stations of the cross in the old city of Jerusalem

See for yourself the complicated layers behind the Israeli / Palestinian conflict

Pray and worship in stunning churches built at holy sites

Grow relationships of greater depth with your brothers and sisters from church through a shared common spiritual experience

A note on security / safety – because of media portrayal of the middle east as violent and unstable, this is often the first question that comes up for many considering such a trip. I have great confidence in our travel company taking care of us (this is the same company I traveled with for a month back in 2017). Galilee is a peaceful, rural farming area. Jerusalem is a bustling urban city. Thousands and thousands of pilgrims travel in and out of these sites every year – the local economy depends on the tourism, which means that great care is taken so that tourists have a positive experience.

Again—coming informational meeting. All are invited!

Sunday, January 10th 11:30am at St James FLC

Pastor's Column

By Evan Cameron, pastor



Christmas Eve Outdoors:

A dose of authenticity added to our celebrations

In a year when nothing has been normal, our Christmas Eve gatherings will be following the same pattern! The last thing that myself or our council members want is to send home all of our families from a packed Christmas Eve service to spend the holidays sick or quarantining from COVID concerns. Nobody wants Kris “COVID” Kringle as a guest for Christmas and New Years.

So—out of love for all of us—we will be gathering outdoors on Christmas Eve night at each church. Our hope is to keep the core traditions of these worships the same, with of course some expected changes. I expect that most of us will feel some sadness at not gathering inside on Christmas Eve night as we have for perhaps every 12/24 night of our lives.

But I also feel that as a “one time only” special this year, gathering outside will make the story come to life in a new way. Mary and Joseph, encountering the “no vacancy” sign at the inn, were forced into the elements even as her water broke. Singing “Angels we have heard on high” outdoors will echo back the first singing of angels on this hillside fields so many years ago. We can even look up at the stars as we hear tales of the magi ‘noticing a new star at its rising.” The original Christmas Eve took place outdoors, in a world without electricity or heating. This year, ours will, too.

As we close out this bizarre and painful year, I invite you to lean into the experience of a very different Christmas Eve...just this once. Perhaps you will hear the story in a new way given the new context. Perhaps you will notice a new detail previously missed. Perhaps you will wonder about how all these characters navigated the unfolding events in the dark.

The magic of this night will still be with us...even if it feels a little different.

May God grant you all the best of Advent:
peace, hope, joy, and love.

Pastor Evan 



CHRISTMAS EVE OUTSIDE SERVICES

ST. PAUL WORSHIP 5:00pm with children
presenting the Christmas story. Same spot as summer.

ST. JAMES WORSHIP 6:30pm with children
presenting the Christmas story, behind the FLC.

For these services, ushers will greet you as you arrive to give
bulletins, candles, and instructions.

*****Note—Sunday, 12/27 will be a shared lessons and carols service starting
at 10am at St James (led by Pastor Bade)***

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all at St. Paul and St. James for filling shoeboxes for
Operation Christmas Child again this year!

We had a total of 21 boxes that will be shipped to children

KWHI Services Ongoing

We will continue our Sunday 4:30pm worship on KWHI,
both AM (1280) and FM (101.7). *We will have a broadcast on 12/27.*

Councils have elected to continue this ministry into 2021.

Services can also be streamed live on the KWHI app
and online—<https://kwhi.com/>

Thanks to all who have given to support this new outreach ministry!

Also: please note that all sermons are available for a couple months on our
website: www.sjsplutheran.org/sermons

ST JAMES NEW WEHDEM UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE—CHICKEN STEW

The annual chicken stew at St. James will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021! It will be a drive thru only. We are planning a raffle and need prizes.

RAFFLE DONATIONS

Please complete a form for your prize donations by Dec. 13 so that raffle tickets for the stew can be printed. Forms available in sanctuary and FLC.

ST. JAMES POINSETTIA SIGN UP Poinsettia plant order forms are on the back table in the sanctuary and in the FLC. Cost is \$12.50 each.

MAKING CARDS Our Sunday School will make Christmas cards for our shut-ins on Dec. 6 at 9:30am in the FLC. Social distancing will be observed.

CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM If you are interested in participating in the Christmas Eve Program, please let Phyllis Weiss (979-277-8840) or Kim Wade (979-277-8615) know.

SUCCESSFUL LWR DRIVE Thank you to so many of you who contributed to our Lutheran World Relief Drive this year! We shipped a total of 31 quilts, 96 School Kits, 52 Personal Care Kits and 16 Fabric Kits! What an awesome contribution again this year!!

2021 FLOWER CHART The St. James Flower Chart for 2021 is on the bulletin board in the back of sanctuary. You can now sign up for flowers for the next year.

2020 OFFERINGS Please have your offerings for 2020 turned in by December 31. All offerings received after this date will be posted to the next year.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES 2021 Offering Envelopes are in the FLC. Thanks to so many of you who give your offerings electronically—we made a set of envelopes so that we can keep the same number as in previous years and if you want to contribute to any special day offerings. If you would like to begin giving electronically, please call the office or see Linda or Becky for a form to fill out to begin the process.

MEMORIAL *IN MEMORY OF JOHNNY HARDIN*

Weldon & Peggy Emshoff

ST PAUL PHILLIPSBURG UPDATES

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING was held on November 15th after worship. Pastor Evan presented and was open for questions re the Shared Ministry Covenant; the vote passed

Thanks to our outgoing council members: Jason Kiemsteadt, Deanna Callahan, Florence Klehm, Ruth Lehmann, Carey Kokemor

2021 Church Council:

President: Anna Breddin

Vice President: Charlie Johnson

Secretary: Vernice Kokemor

Financial Secretary: Dorothy Wellmann

Treasurer: Jessie Kokemor

Buildings and Grounds: Lenny Krause

Memorials: Lori Moehlmann

Congregational Life / Shared Ministry Rep: Carey Kokemor

Parish Ed: Trish Surovik

POINSETTIAS can be purchased for \$11 to adorn the chancel area for the Christmas season. The signup sheet can be found at the back of the church or call Dorothy Wellmann @ 979-277-2220. Please note if you'd like in memory or honor of someone. The deadline is December 6th.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2021 can be picked up from the back pew of the church.

FLOWER CHART for 2021 has been posted. Sign up for your floral donations and make note if they're in memory or honor of someone special.

WELCA items to be collected in December...

BREAD PARTNER is any canned item of your choice-NO bagged items

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, PERSONAL CARE KIT items needed are:

27x52 dark bath towels, bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs, metal nail clippers

A thank you from Bread Partners of Washington County...

Thank you for your generous monetary donation. Because of supporters like you, we are able to help hundreds of families in our community access the food they so desperately need. We are honored to count you as a partner in our effort to feed our neighbors and lead Washington County to end hunger.

We truly appreciate the gift and wish to extend our sincere gratitude for your generous contribution and continued support, especially in these difficult times.

December 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
		1	2 Zoom Bible
6 St. Paul—9:00am I/O St. James— 10:30am I/O 9:30am Homebound Project in FLC at St. James Confirmation-11:30am St. James 4:30pm KHWI Radio Service	7	8	9 Zoom Bible
13 St. Paul—9:00am I/O St. James— 10:30am I/O St. James FLC-Winkelmann 4:30pm KHWI Radio Service	14	15	16 Zoom Bible
20 St. Paul—9:00am Inside & Outside St. James— 10:30am Inside & Outside Confirmation—11:30am St. James 4:30pm KWHI Radio Service	21 Leadership Night—both church councils, at St Paul 6:30pm start	22 SS Program Practice at St. James 5:30pm with dinner	23
27 Shared Lessons and Carols at St. James with Pastor Bade—10:00am St. James FLC-Koehn 4:30pm KWHI Radio Service	30	31	PASTOR EVA

<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
e Study—7pm	3	4	5
e Study—7pm	10	11	12
e Study—7pm	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18	19
	24 CHRISTMAS EVE St. Paul—5:00pm St. James—6:30pm	25	26
MAN ON VACATION			

St. Paul Phillipsburg Worship Assistants

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Reader	Barbara Tegeler	Lonnie Tegeler	Ruth Lehmann	10am @ St. James
Organist	Donna Lankford	Donna Lankford	Beth Appel	10am @ St. James
Ushers	Lenny & Debbie Krause, Michael & Deanna Callahan	Cheryl Gaskamp, Lori Moehlmann, Glenn Klehm	Mark & Venetia Schiller, Carl & Carey Kokemor	10am @ St. James
Altar Guild	Cheryl Gaskamp Lori Moehlmann	Barbara Tegeler JoAnn Johnson	Barbara Tegeler JoAnn Johnson	10am @ St. James
Altar Flowers	Sandra Schwenke in memory of Earl	Anita Kramer in memory of Edward	Poinsettias by the Congregation	10am @ St. James

St. James New Wehdem Worship Assistants

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Reader	Fredericka DeBerry	Fredericka DeBerry		Betty Bowden
Organist	Cheryl Buenger	Phyllis Weiss	Cheryl Buenger	Phyllis Weiss
Altar Flowers		Family of Pearlie Dierking	Herrmann's for Bradens Birthday	Gary & Phyllis Weiss Gary's Birthday
Ushers + Greeters	Peggy & Weldon Emshoff; Gayle, Daniel, Lance Engeling; Brandi, Chad, Callie, Tyler Fishbeck; Megan & Kyle Freitag; Elana, Royce, Weston Garling			
Council	All Council Persons			

An Update on Lutheran World Relief Quilts and other items caught in the Beirut Explosion

The news and evolving reports out of Beirut following the deadly explosion of August 4 had many of our heads whirling in the last couple months. Three containers of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) quilts and kits were in the port awaiting customs clearance on the day of the blast. Immediate reports from the port authority indicated that the containers could not have survived. A fourth container had been separated at the port in the United States and was still on the water at the time of the explosion. It was re-routed to the port in Tripoli.

On September 22, LWR received an update that against all odds, the containers were intact! Despite the magnitude of the blast, the seal of the containers containing the LWR Mission Quilts and Kits was not broken. They had been placed inside a concrete storage building and surrounded by other shipping containers, which protected the containers enough to even prevent chemical contamination from the ammonium nitrate blast.

The fourth container cleared customs in Tripoli and travelled over land to join the other three to once again bring the full shipment together. Lutheran World Relief estimated that the quilts and other shipments contained \$600,000 worth of humanitarian supplies, including quilts, hygiene kits, and other items.

Thanks be to God that the love of hundreds of Lutheran congregations contained in this shipment will be able to be shared with the many thousands of Syrian refugees fleeing violence and unrest and now living across Lebanon. From the ashes of this crisis rises a beautiful ray of hope.



Council Notes

St. Paul Phillipsburg Council

Council met on 11/16. Deanna, Lenny, Ruth, Florence, Jessie, Carey and Vernice were present with Anna calling the meeting to order. Pastor Evan opened with a prayer and highlighted his written report.

- Minutes were approved as read
- Financial spreadsheet was handed out
- Treasurer's report was accepted
- Yard, Cemetery and Cleaning bids were accepted at the same price as last year
- Discussed Memorials and Parish Ed Council positions becoming appointed volunteer positions
- Discussed sponsoring families for Christmas
- Next meeting is Monday, December 21st at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's; new council members are invited to attend

Respectfully submitted, Vernice Kokemor

St. Paul Council

Jason Kiemsteadt, *President*

Anna Breddin, *VP*

Vernice Kokemor, *Secretary*

Jessie Kokemor, *Treasurer*

Deanna Callahan,
Financial Secretary

Carey Kokemor, *Parish Ed*

Ruth Lehmann, *Memorials*

Florence Klehm, *Bldg / Grounds*

Lenny Krause, *At-Large*

St. James New Wehdem Council

Met on November 16 with St. Paul's council. Discussed that all shared expenses between St. James and St. Paul would be sent to St. James for payment and St. Paul will reimburse St. James their 35% of the cost at the end of each month.

Kamie Krueger called St. James Council Meeting to order with members David Bartay, Linda Tiemann, Janice Hanath present.

- Discussed the plans for the outdoor Christmas Eve Service and Children's Christmas Program
- The transition to indoor worship service has been smooth
- Holy Land Trip is scheduled for Jan. 6-17, 2022. Current cost estimate is \$1900.00 plus flight
- The cemetery pavilion will begin construction this week
- Finance Committee will give a recommendation for the renewal of a CD that is coming due
- Discussed January chicken stew

St. James Council

Knellen Quinteros, *President*

Kamie Krueger, *VP*

Janice Hanath, *Secretary*

Linda Tiemann, *Treasurer*

Becky Winkelmann, *Asst.
Treasurer*

David Bartay
Bldg / Grounds

Joe Tallarine, *At-Large*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 7PM

Our Wednesday bible study / book club group is continuing on Zoom.

In December and January, we will be focusing on **Colossians!**

Our next four meeting dates will be:

Wed. Dec. 2nd, 7pm

Wed. Dec. 9th, 7pm

Wed. Dec. 16th, 7pm

Wed. Jan. 6th, 7pm

If you are looking for a small group to discuss faith and life, this is a great fit for you.

Anyone is welcome to join.

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/983234326>

Meeting ID: 983 234 326

Call In Option: You can call in with a cell phone or landline.

Dial 1-346-248-7799, add code 983234326#

CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH

compassion,
kindness,
humility,
gentleness
& patience

COLOSSIANS 3:12

SUNDAY WORSHIP

St Paul 9:00am

St. James 10:30am

Dec 6 | Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11, Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13, 2

Peter 3:8-15, Mark 1-8

We say "See, our God is coming!" to one another in worship in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Dec 13 | Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Ps 126, 1 Thess.

5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Rejoice always! God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy.

Dec 20 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:46-55,

Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Mary is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in."

Dec 27 | First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2

We'll gather today and sing a variety of carols—with live recommendations welcome! And we will hear the traditional readings of the season one final time.

Bread Partners Item in December

St. James: your choice of food items (leave in back of sanctuary).
We had 269 items this month!! Thanks to all for your donations!

St. Paul: Any canned item of your choice (drop off at church) - goal of 50

Prayer Concerns

St. Paul Members: Wilfred Neumann, Otto & Dorothy Krause, Austin Schiller, Jean Thompson, Brenda Blum, Will Hartnett, Karen Klehm

St. James Members: Fredericka DeBerry, Larry Dierking, Sally Dierking, Laura Fieseler, Janet Mills, Elsie Pieper, Floreen Schulze, Erlene Sommerfeld, Chris, Amy, & Lincoln Tiemann, Treyce Tiemann, Margaret Tiemann, Nelda Wilke, Lee Roy Winkelmann

Family and Friends: Pat Stelter, Leonard, Jamie Stokes, Gabriel Fuentes, Tammy Glaesmann, Ronnie Haevischer, Shannon Wellmann, Shelly Richard, David Kiemsteadt, Marilyn Petrich, Hank Duvall, Jeri Bentke, Lorri Morris, Winston Dietrich, Alton Jacobs, Gladys Oakley, Pam Bothe, Thomas Brinkmeyer, Byron Peach, Donnie Sander, Gerald Beausoleil, Parker & his father Clay, Leonard Philip

Military: Tristan Plaisance, Jenna Schiller

Sympathies to:

- Family & Friends of Allison Wilke Weinschenck, daughter of Nelda Wilke
- Family & Friends of William "Sonny" Peters, brother of Floreen Schulze & uncle of Jenny Henske

ST PAUL ANNIVERSARIES

12-12-64 Lonnie & Barbara Tegeler

ST JAMES ANNIVERSARIES

12-15 Brandt & Cari Goeke

12-16 Nathaniel & Jennifer Harris

ST PAUL BIRTHDAYS

1 Joshua Torrez

2 Cheryl Gaskamp

2 Jarred Moehlmann

3 Cody Vacha

5 Justin Krause

8 Wilfred Neumann

11 Esther Lampe

12 Jessie Kokemor

20 Charles Kokemor

23 Jenna Schiller

27 Lonnie Tegeler

28 Venetia Schiller

31 Megan Kokemor Om

32 Chloe Ritch

ST JAMES BIRTHDAYS

12-4 Jordan Winkelmann

12-7 Justin Brending

12-7 Charlee White

12-8 Kensley Tiemann

12-9 Randy Hegemeyer

12-12 Cari Goeke

12-12 Katelyn Lorenz

12-13 Gladys Stein

12-14 Shea Emshoff

12-14 Jerry Ondrias

12-15 Travis Bartay

12-15 Julian Martin

12-16 Paisley Dierking

12-16 Patricia Winkelmann

12-17 Emmie Goeke

12-17 Chris Tiemann

12-18 Kylie Cafero

12-19 Vera Klausmeyer

12-21 Ava Tiemann

12-22 Braeden Herrmann

12-23 Rudy Tiemann

12-24 Margaret Tiemann

12-25 Robert Bockhorn

12-27 Art Remmert

12-27 Sawyer Schrader

12-27 Lorna

Sommerfeld

12-27 Gary Weiss

12-29 Teresa Mingori

12-30 Kyle Bentke

12-31 Katharine

Cameron

12-31 Brett Sander

SHARED MINISTRY STAFF

Ministers

all the members of St. Paul and St. James

Donna Lankford

donna@sjsplutheran.org (St Paul)

Donna's Cell: 713-816-6980

Tanya Rosenbaum

tanya@sjsplutheran.org (St James), in office

Wed and Thur 8-2p

Pastor Evan Cameron

pastorevan@sjsplutheran.org

Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday 9a-12p at St. Paul

Mon & Wed: 9am -12:30pm at St. James

St Paul Office: *use Donna's cell above*

St. James Office: 979-836-2795

www.sjsplutheran.org

Return Address: 2739 Phillipsburg Church Rd, Brenham TX 77833

Welcome to worship!

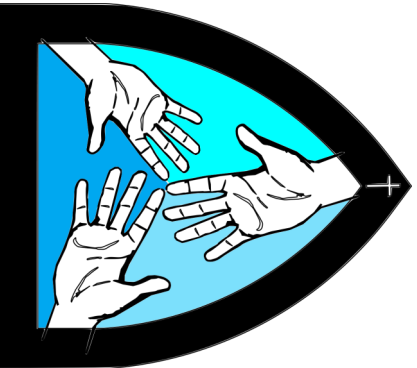
We are currently worshipping

9am at St Paul

10:30am at St James

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Address service requested



Partners in Faith
St. James + St. Paul
Lutheran