

The Joyful Noise

United in Grace. Serving in Love.

A thrill of hope.....
The weary world rejoices!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you!

Partners in Faits January 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

WATER INTO WINE STORIES

Have an experience of God turning water into wine in your life? We would love to hear it!

Spend some time considering a story you'd like to share, write it out (about 350-500 words) and send it to Pastor Evan, or just ask to talk to him to craft it together.

Pastor's Column

By Evan Cameron, pastor



2020 Vision

I absolutely remember the day I failed my vision test at elementary school. I was mortified at the thought of glasses—how could you play basketball with glasses? How could you still "be cool" with glasses? That day, I went home with so much anxiety that I convinced my parents to let me start directly with contacts in 4th grade. It was a rare "child wins negotiations" moment.

"For us in this shared ministry, 2020 vision is about seeing long

The funny thing about failing a vision test, of course, is that as a kid, until you get corrective lenses, you don't really know what you cannot see. I just assumed everyone couldn't see the board from the third row of desks in the classroom. With contacts distance, too" came a "wow!" factor of details appearing in my life previously missed. The same thing happened to my sister; we discovered she needed glasses after famously uttering: "Oh, there were faces

on those rocks!" upon seeing printed pictures of a past family trip to Mt. Rushmore, where she thought everyone was just taking photos of the bighorn sheep and white limestone.

Probably about every pastor in the world is writing their January 2020 column with some type of pun or allusion to 2020 vision. Most companies and organizations are likely doing the same. For us in this shared ministry, 2020 vision is about seeing long distance, too—not literally of course, but long distance as in the long future of our shared life together.

When our shared ministry team visited with leaders from the four church Fayette County ministry, they were clear that they established some initial patterns and structures, but as the partnership became successful, things evolved and changed as creativity and new ideas kept flowing in. They've now been in existence for decades and are still going strong. And—they are still often changing structures to continue healthy partnerships between each church.

For us—we might easily assume that we already have this whole shared ministry thing down! After all, 2019 was pretty smooth sailing, repeating many of the same shared events as 2018. But now that we have some roots grown, I hope to spend the year learning from the many long term shared ministries that exist to see what our long term vision might include.

Surely we have more places where we can build relationships and work together in our call to be the hands and feet of Christ.



"Wind Down Wednesdays" for Young Adults and Families

First Gathering: Wed., Jan. 29th, 6pm at St. James Family Life Center

In this shared ministry partnership, we are blessed with the gift of an abundance of young adults and young families between St. Paul and St. James. Starting in 2020, we're setting a standing date to gather on the last Wednesday of the month. There will be faith conversations/activities for both adults and for children. Some weeks we'll be together, and some weeks we'll have adults and kids separate.

While we won't be having a meal, the goal is for a mix of fellowship and faith conversations to exist together. We hope that this can be a time to pause toward the end of each month, seek some spiritual renewal, and share together about following Jesus in the midst of busy lives.

There's no expectation to attend every month—just a hope and prayer to create space for this age group to talk about faith growing and changing in the middle of life.

We'll gather at 6pm, and be together for around 1 hour. Hope you can join!



Shared Ministry Updates!

2020 Chicken Stew! Save the Date: January 26

The tickets for our 2020 Chicken Stew Raffle are ready and we have some fantastic prizes!

St James members generously donated:

- a \$1000 Visa gift card
- a 2 night stay in Galveston
 - a Toro AWD walk mower
- a Char-broil digital electric 1000 smoker
 - A BBQ meal for 25 people
 - a \$300 Visa gift card
- several other gift cards and gift certificates
 - a handcrafted wooden tray,
 - movie passes
 - a basket of home canned goodies.

Please check out tickets to sell and buy your own. They will be available in the back of each church until the stew on January 26.



Updates from the Confirmation Class

We have 9 students going through the Old Testament this fall (St Paul—Mia S., Cole and Jaylen T., Chloe and Phoebe R. + St James—Tyler and Eli F., Kerby K., Colin G.)

Our topics have included Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Job, Psalms, Jonah, the major prophets (Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah), and Esther!

We're continuing to get to know each other better each week, and together are doing some great work learning how to read and interpret scripture in healthy ways. In the springtime, we'll move to the New Testament, covering Jesus, the gospels, and Paul. "Year 2" of confirmation will focus on what it means to be Lutheran and what being a disciple of Jesus looks like in modern times.

We meet on the 1st Sunday every month after church, and the 3rd Wednesday every month.

Ongoing Ministries

FUN SUNDAY. St. Paul families and adults gather one Sunday a month for intergenerational activities. This month, we will gather on January 19. Contact Carey Kokemor for details.

of St. Paul women meets on the third Wednesday of each month. They quilt 9am-3pm with fellowship and Bible study at 4pm. Contact Anna Breddin for info.

HANNAH CIRCLE. This gathering of St. James women typically meets regularly on the first Wednesday of the month, at 5:30pm. Contact Joan Buenger for

info. This month, they meet one week later than normal.

HOPE CIRCLE: This group for women from St. James gathers on the 2nd Thursday of the month at On Deck, for fellowship and study. Contact Vera Jean Klausmeyer for info.

CARE COMPANIONS deliver communion and serve as a faithful companions through changes in life. Care Companions include Anna Breddin, Mildred Haynes, Vera Jean Klausmeyer, Cindy Schaper, and Dorothy Wellmann. Contact Pastor Evan if you wish to receive care—or become a companion!

MEN IN FAITH. Men of St. Paul and St. James gather on the first Thursday of the month for breakfast and fellowship at Buccaneer in Brenham. We will not meet during January. Invite a friend and contact Pastor Evan with questions.

POTLUCK AND GAMES St. James folks gather in the FLC one Sunday each month after worship for games and a potluck. This month, they'll meet on January 19th.

The Life and Times of Shared Ministry





The St James Sunday School families sang carols on December 8 at Brenham Nursing and Rehab as well as Kruse Village.

Thank you to the many hands who helped beautify St. Paul and St. James during our Advent season!
Your gifts and time are both appreciated!



Photos from our Shared Ministry Advent Workshop on 12/11









SUNDAY WORSHIP St. Paul: 9am St. James: 10:30am

January 5 | Epiphany Sunday Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
The magi follow the star upon Herod's request....and have the wisdom to not return to him.

January 12 | Baptism of our Lord Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17 Jesus meets John in the river, and the Spirit descends as foretold by the prophet Isaiah

January 19 | Epiphany 2 Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11 I Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42 John teaches that Jesus is the Lamb of God, and Jesus responds by beginning his recruitment work, inviting Andrew and Simon Peter to "come and see"

January 26 | Epiphany 3 Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9 I Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23 Images of light dominate, as more disciples join the new movement. Meanwhile, John the Baptist is arrested and imprisoned, and Jesus' ministry begins to carry a sense of urgency.



Pastor Evan's Eco-Tip of the Month

As we all take down outdoor and indoor Christmas lights....here's some info for lighting in the rest of your house!

Both LED and CFL lights save energy and money.

- CFL (compact florescent light) bulbs use about ¼ of the energy as traditional bulbs. They also last much longer than standard bulbs—typically around 10,000 hours.
- Don't be turned off by the higher price of these bulbs. After about 500 hours of use, they pay for themselves.
- However, for the best option: LED lights cost a bit more than CFLs, yet they use less energy and last longer than even CFLs.
- LED lights use 80-90% less energy consumption, and can last up to 100,000 hours

Some food for thought for us who worship the Light of the World

Worship Leaders in January

				-
St. Paul Phillipsburg Worship Assistants				
	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Reader	Brenda Blum	Venetia Schiller	JoAnn Johnson	Jason Kiemsteadt
Organist	Donna Lankford	Donna Lankford	Beth Appel	Beth Appel
Ushers	Nelson & Dorothy Wellmann, Sandra Schwenke	Edwin & Anna Breddin, Anita Kramer	Carl & Carey Kokemor, Florence Klehm	Jason Kiemsteadt, Misti Malinowski, Jessie Kokemor
Altar Guild	Jessie Kokemor, Venetia Schiller	Jessie Kokemor, Venetia Schiller	Deanna Callahan, Sandra Schwenke	Deanna Callahan, Sandra Schwenke
Altar Flowers	Florence Klehm in memory of Wilbert & Wilburn's bdays	Brad & Donna Lankford in honor of their 31st anniv		

St. James New Wehdem Worship Assistants

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Reader		Kay Sander		
Organist	Fredericka DeBerry	Phyllis Weiss		
Altar Flowers		Leif & Emily Luetge in honor of their anniver- sary & Erwin & Kay's anniversary		Herrmann's in honor of Lee Roy's birthday
Ushers + Greeters	Amy Baranowski, Brett Bartay, David & Peggy Bartay, Megan Bartay, Kyle Bentke			
Council	Shared between all council			

J	anuary 2	2020	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed
			1
5 Worship at St. Paul: 9am Worship at St. James 10:30. Confirmation at St James 12p	6	7	8 Hannah Circ
12 Worship at St. Paul: 9am WELCA meeting 10 am Worship at St. James 10:30., with Sunday School at 9am.	13	14 Pastor Evan at First Call Theological Education Event	15 Dorcas Circle Quilting 10:0 Bible Study 3 Shared Confi 6pm, at St. Pa
19 *Council Installations Worship at St. Paul: 9am Fun Sunday: 10am St Paul Council: 11:30am Worship at St. James: 10:30 Appreciation Meal after church at St James	20	21 Shared Ministry Team 5:30PM @ St. James St James Council 6:30PM @ St. James	22
Worship at St. Paul: 9am Worship at St. James 10:30	27	28	29 "Wind Down Family Night St James FLO

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nesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4
	Men's Fellowship will not meet this month		FLC Reserved: Herrmann Weiss / Nguyen Wedding
	9н	10	11
e: 5:30pm	Hope Circle—meeting at On Deck for bible study and fellowship		
	16	17	18
: 0am-2:30pm :00 pm			
mation ul			
	23	24	25
	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
	30	31	Feb. 1
Wednesdays"			Treehouse Gala benefiting Texas A&M and Blinn
C, 6p			ELCA Campus Ministry,
day School 6p			

ST JAMES NEW WEHDEM UPDATES

ST JAMES SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule Change—January 2020

Starting in January, we are changing our schedule for Sunday School in hopes of getting better attendance. We will meet one Sunday during the month with the first date being January 12. We plan to meet in the FLC from 9:00-10:30am with breakfast, a lesson and a craft. We will also meet the last Wednesday of the month in conjunction with a Young Families Get-Together. More details will be in the church bulletins. Please make plans to attend as we help our children build a firm foundation in Christ.

GRATITUDE MEAL In thanksgiving for all the volunteer hours and generosity shared with St. James in 2019, our church council is hosting a meal after church on January 19 to thank our members. The full congregation is invited!

2020 FLOWER CHART The St. James Flower Chart for 2020 is on the bulletin board in the back of the church. You can begin signing up for flowers for the next year.

DEFIBRILLATOR ADDED in Family Life Center. Talk to Pastor Evan or Kay Sander with questions. We hope to have a free CPR educational session soon!

BREAD PARTNERS

Thanks to everyone who donated items to Bread Partners each month during 2019! We were able to meet our Anniversary Year Goal of 150 items almost every month! Please continue giving in the new year. For January we will be collecting canned soup.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone for supporting the WELCA Lutheran World Relief Projects for the year 2019. Watch future newsletters for projects you can support during 2020.

More thank you notes— Thank you for thinking of me during the holiday season with the beautiful poinsettia and Christmas wreath. I am humbled and grateful at your generosity. Your thoughtfulness is a gift I will always treasure. I also want to thank Mildred Haynes for bringing the gifts to my home. Blessings to all for a safe and healthy New Year.

From Erline Sommerfeld

ST JAMES ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Overall, this December we collected \$1,067 in good gifts that will be sent around the world.

Below is a list of known gifts—it is incomplete, but this is what we have logged at the time of printing this newsletter

Thank you for such global generosity!

ELCA GOOD GIFTS	GIVEN BY
School Supplies for a Child	Paul Tempan Pitabunkate
Pig	Bruce & Cheryl Buenger
Chicks	Mary J. Bowden
Rooster	Betty Bowden
Pig	The Engeling Family
Chicks	Cindy Schaper
Bibles for the Global Church	Catherine Koehn
School Supplies for a Child	Lily Koehn
Honeybees	Rudy & Linda Tiemann
Goat	Gary & Phyllis Weiss
Honeybees, Chicks	Erwin & Kay Sander
Feed a Refugee Family	Robert & Nancy Ritzi
Honeybees	Fredericka DeBerry
Pair of Goats	Sharon & Tommy O'Malley
Pig	Janice Hanath
Pig, Goat, bibles for Global Church	Jack & Ryan Buenger
Honeybees	Ella & Sam Wilson
Pair of Goats	Darla & Nathan Winkelmann
Pair of Goats	Pr. Lawrence & Sharon Bade
Feed A Refugee Family	Winston & Tanya Rosenbaum
Unspecified	The Bartay family and Frank family

ST PAUL PHILLIPSBURG UPDATES



FUN SUNDAY

January 19th after worship with lunch. Council will meet afterward. Everyone is invited!

Dorcas Circle's Annual Christmas Party had 19 adults and baby Jay in attendance on December 10th. A delicious meal of chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes and a vegetable medley was enjoyed by all. Desserts were provided by Anna, Jessie and Florence. Secret circle sisters were revealed. Of course, the high light of the gathering was the white elephant exchange. The offering of \$185 will be sent to Treehouse Ministries.

- WELCA general meeting after church on January 12th to approve the budget, projects and calendar for the new year
- Dorcas Circle and Quilting on January 15th,

Quilting 10 am to 2:30 pm

Dorcas Circle & Bible Study at 3 pm, Ruth is hostess

SEMI ANNUAL MEETING was after worship on December 1st. The budget was approved and officers were elected. Thank you to our outgoing Council members: Charlie Johnson, Dorothy Wellmann, Sandra Schwenke and Venetia Schiller and our incoming Council Council members: Anna Breddin, Vernice Kokemor, Jessie Kokemor and Lenny Krause. Thank you to past, present and incoming Council members for serving!

WELCA general meeting will be after worship on January 12th to approve the budget, projects and calendar for the new year. Ladies are encouraged to attend.

DORCAS CIRCLE and QUILTING on January 15th. Quilting is 10 am -2:30 pm. Bible Study will begin at 3:00 pm with Ruth as hostess.

2020 Church Council

President-Jason Kiemsteadt
Vice President-Anna Breddin
Secretary-Vernice Kokemor
Treasurer-Jessie Kokemor
Financial Secretary-Deanna Callahan
Carey Kokemor, Parish Ed
Ruth Lehmann, Memorials
Florence Klehm, Building and Grounds

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Leonard Petrich

Mark & Venetia Schiller, Undesignated

In Memory of Bill Norman

Brad & Donna Lankford, Undesignated Ruth Lehmann, Cemetery Fund

In Memory of Bob Byrd

Sandra Schwenke, Cemetery Fund

FLOWER CHART for 2020 is now available to sign up for your floral offerings.

LAY READERS & USHERS are still needed for next year. Sign up sheets can be found at the back of the church. Please consider serving.

ALL OCCASION CARDS are available for sale at 25 cents each located at the back of the church by the mailboxes. There's a can for donations by the cards.

THANK YOU for your help with the Christmas Eve bags for the children. To Jessie for filling the bags and all those who contributed candy and fruit to continue our Christmas bag tradition!

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES had a brighter Christmas thanks to your generosity. We collected so many gifts for each family. Thank you for opening your hearts and wallets to bring joy to families in need in this season of hope and giving.

THANK YOU to Nelson and Dorothy for providing the delicious roast at our Advent dinner. It was enjoyed by all!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS were discussed at the December Council to try a new meeting time. Beginning January 19th after worship, Council will meet at 11:30 am. This date was chosen to correspond with Confirmation, Fun Sunday and the blessing of incoming council members during worship.

Council Notes

St. Paul Phillipsburg Council

Council met on 12/17 with members present Charlie, Dorothy, Deanna, Ruth, Florence, Sandra and Carey. Members elect were Lenny and Jessie.

- Pastor E gave updates on confirmation plans, shared ministry team for next year, and shared values statements.
- Charlie gave updates on parking lot and railing construction, repairs to cross. Update on landline phone disconnection and replace with a google number.
- Treasurers report was given with a working balance of \$14,065.54. In November: \$7,462 was given, and \$4,344 was our total expenses.
- Deanna gave the financial report and introduced a new, simplified tally for weekly offerings.
- Ruth reported \$40 given to memorials.
- Florence gave update on water well repairs and presented bids for cleaning and mowing services. Council voted to approve all bids which are the same as last year

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Submitted by Carey 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

December 17, 2019 we met with St. Paul's church council and shared ministry team for a potluck meal. President Robert Winkelmann called the meeting to order.

Members present were Knellen Quinteros, Gary Weiss, Linda Tiemann, Wesley Winkelmann, Janice Hanath, and Pastor Evan.

We discussed the still vacant vice president position. Thanksgiving service and Advent Workshop family night events went well. The new Sunday School schedule will begin on January 12th. We are still working on getting a price for the cemetery pavilion project. We discussed the chicken stew and raffle ticket prizes.

We discussed the possibility of having automatic drafts from member's bank accounts for their contributions to the church instead of writing a check or cash, if they prefer this method.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

St. James Council

Knellen Quinteros,

President

Need a VP

Janice Hanath, Secretary

Linda Tiemann, Treasurer

Becky Winkelmann, Asst.

Treasurer

Dave Bartay Bldg /

Grounds

Joe Tallerine,

At-Large

Bread Partners Item in January:

St. James: Cans of Soup! Thank you for all December donations!

St. Paul: items of your choice LWR items: 27x52 dark bath towels

Prayer Concerns

St. Paul Members: Wilfred Neumann, Otto & Dorothy Krause, Austin Schiller, Anna Breddin, Lillie Mae Gross, Jean Thompson

St. James Members: Jr. Dierking, Larry Dierking, Erline Sommerfeld, Sally Dierking, Joy Druschke, Laura Fieseler, Margaret Tiemann, Ellen Henske, Janet Mills, Ronny Schaper, Floreen Schulze, Lon Tiemann, Nelda Wilke, Lee Roy Winklemann

Family and Friends: Pam Alexander, Gerald Beausoleil, Jeri Bentke, Donna DeBerry, Cindy Sodolak, Gabriel Fuentes, Tammy Glaesmann, Pat Hajek, Margaret Eldridge, Keith Korth, Jacob Kolwes, Kaitlyn Nienstedt, Shannon Wellmann, Mildred Huebel, Kay Roberts, Donald Siptak, Sue Schwartz, Megan Styers, Treyce Tiemann, Barbara, Bill Mosley, Ricky Ondrias, Ann Fox, Diane White, Laura Mann, MaryAnn Sanderson, Mark Glentzer, Rudy and Ramona Kunkel, Shawn Grimm, Sally Callahan

Military: Tristan Plaisance, Jenna Schiller

Sympathies to: Family and friends of Ray Rodenbeck, Viola Warmke, and

Allen Schubert

Updates from our Ministry Partners

Save The Date

Century Supper Gala

Saturday, February I, 2020 The College Station Hilton

> Aggie-tizers • Reveille • Merch Live & Silent Auctions Student Stories • Black Tie Optional

Treehouse is the ELCA Campus Ministry serving Blinn College in Brenham and Bryan, as well as Texas A&M University. Talk to Pastor Evan if you wish to attend their Gala!

Thank you to all who packed meals with us way back in September 2019 for Rise

Against Hunger!

Pastor Evan received this email from Robby this past month:



"We are delighted to announce that the meals from your event on 9/8/2019 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Houston warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner Salesian Missions in Cambodia.

Salesian Missions is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Cambodia. To learn more, please visit our partner/country spotlight on the Impact Stories tab and click and drag on our World Aid Map at https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/global-impact/. "



ST PAUL

01-08-89 Brad & Donna Lankford

ST JAMES

1-2 Royce & Elana Garling

1-6 Clint & Sarah Buenger

1-8 Troy & Connie Oevermann

1-11 Erwin & Kay Sander

1-16 Adam & Christina Koehn

1-16 Leif & Emily Luetge



ST PAUL

03 Jean Thompson

08 Jason Kiemsteadt

09 B J Mikeska

13 Misti Malinowski

14 Patricia Lampe

14 R B Schawe

17 Lenny Krause

18 Michael Callahan, II

29 Sophie Kokemor

30 Otto Krause

ST JAMES

1-2 Lillian Koehn

1-3 Butch Lorenz

1-5 Peggy Emshoff

1-5 Colby Hanath

1-5 Kim Wade

1-7 Kelly Frank

1-8 Callie Fishbeck

1-9 Lee Neumann

1-11 Lea Bartay

1-13 Will Meischen

1-14 Wendy Loesch

1-15 Jesse Buenger

1-15 Chris Wade

1-16 Jason Brending

1-16 Leeland Rinn

1-17 Becky Winkelmann

1-18 Erline Sommerfeld

1-19 Patrick Draehn

1-20 Reid Sander

1-22 Gayle Engeling

1-25 Jack Buenger

1-26 Elan Braun

1-26 Laura Fieseler

1-28 Russell Schrader

1-29 Ryan Buenger

1-29 Daniel Engeling

1-29 Michael Tiemann

1-30 Shirley Hohlt

1-30 Crawford Winkelmann

1-31 Lee Roy Winkelmann

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)

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

Return Address: 2739 Phillipsburg Church Rd, Brenham TX 77833

Welcome to worship!

St. Paul Phillipsburg: 9am

St. James New Wehdem: 10:30am

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St. James + St. Pau Partners in (Lutheran

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