



MINISTER *to* MINISTER

January 9, 2026

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WORKER UPDATES // BE IN PRAYER

Pray for those in need of guidance, affirmation, healing, relief, and assurance.

Prayer Requests

- **Dr. Paul Buchheimer (Em., Houston)** // passing of his wife, Peggy
 - **Rev. Harold Fleischhauer (Em., Houston)** // passing of his wife, Jean
 - **Rev. Randy Ledbetter (Em., McKinney)** // recovering after a fall
 - **Rev. Greg Lorenz (St. Paul, McAllen)** // diagnosed with prostate cancer
 - **Family of Elva Musgrove (widow of Rev. Al Musgrove, Houston)** // Elva's passing
 - **Family of Rev. Leo Symmank (Em., Littleton, CO)** // Leo's passing
 - **Family of Rev. Tom Wagstaff (Em., Waco)** // Tom's passing
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New Calls

Ordained

Declined

Rev. Grant Bode // Sole, St. Stephen's, Braham, MN/St. John's, Rush City, MN to Sole, Grace, Paris

Rev. Ryan Cramer // Sole, St. Paul, Foley, AL to Sole, Hope, Winnie

Undecided

Rev. John Berg // Assoc., Trinity, Sheboygan, WI to Sole, St. Paul's, Jasper / Faith, Woodville

Rev. Noah Burgdorf // Sole, Salem, Salisbury, MO to Sole, Hope, Winnie

Rev. Wynn Derong // SMP, St. Andrew, Houston to Assoc., Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines, IA

Rev. Shawn Deterding // Sole, Water of Life, Forney to Sole, St. Paul, Marshfield, MO

Rev. Josh Knippa // Sole, Holy Cross, Nederland to Assoc., Zion, Painesville, OH

Rev. David Murillo // Sr., St. Paul, San Antonio to Sr., Trinity, Portland, OR

Rev. Craig Schinnerer // Em., Fort Worth to Sole, Faith, Grand Prairie

Installations

Rev. James Ebersole // February 1, 3:00 p.m. // Sr., Zion, Dallas
Rev. Mark Hunsaker // January 18, 4:00 p.m. // Sole, Hope, Austin
Rev. Daniel Koyn // January 25, 4:00 p.m. // Sr., Trinity, Amarillo
Rev. Robert LeBlanc // January 25, 4:00 p.m. // Sole (TIM), Salem, Whitehall
Rev. Robert Lutjens // January 18, 3:00 p.m. // Sole, Prince of Peace, Amarillo

Funerals

Rev. Leo Symmank (Em., Littleton, CO) joined the saints in glory on January 1, 2026. His visitation will be held 9:30 a.m., January 19, 2026 at Gloria Dei, Houston (18220 Upper Bay Rd), followed by a memorial service at 10:30 a.m. To view the service live online, [CLICK HERE](#). His inurnment will be 1:00 p.m., January 20, 2026 at Giddings Cemetery (900 W Austin St, Giddings). Pastor Symmank was the founding pastor of Gloria Dei, Houston and also served in the Southern and Missouri districts. We pray for his wife, Rose Merle, and his family and friends.

Rev. Tom Wagstaff (Em., Waco) joined the saints in glory on January 5, 2026. His funeral was held January 9, 2026 at St. Paul, Waco. We pray for his wife, Rita, and his family and friends.

Ordination Anniversaries // January

50 years

Rev. Bob Budewig (1/11) - *Em., San Angelo*

15 years

Rev. Mark Couser (1/9) - *Tree of Life, Garland*

Rev. Thomas Haas (1/9) - *Em., Nederland*

10 years

Rev. David Thompson (1/17) - *Our Savior, McKinney*

5 years

Rev. Kyle Borcharding (1/17) - *Zion, Walburg*

Rev. Jason Wallingsford (1/17) - *Mt. Olive, Austin*

Rev. Mark Payne (1/24) - *Lamb of God, Flower Mound*

DISTRICT NEWS // BE INFORMED

Now Hiring: Texas Church Extension Fund is seeking a self-motivated, mission-minded communicator with strong relationship-building skills to join their team as **Manager of Loans and Investment Development**. This role manages the full lending lifecycle for ministry partners while building strong relationships with church leaders across the Texas District in support of our shared mission. [Learn more](#)

2026 Theological Convocation: Register now for the 2026 Theological Convocation to be held April 20-21 at Faith, Georgetown! This year's theme is "Face to Face". In a world of hidden wounds, fragile identity, and growing isolation, the Gospel speaks face-to-face—calling us into honest conversation with God and one another. Join theologians Dr.

Robert Kolb and Dr. Chad Lakies for a rich exploration of the self, the soul, and the God who meets us in suffering. [Learn more](#)

2026 Catalyst Innovation Lab: Join us at the Texas District Catalyst Innovation Lab, a dynamic and inspiring event where creativity and innovation collide! Discover new and unique ideas to grow ministries and multiply disciples of Jesus. [Learn more](#)

RESOURCE TOOLBOX // BE EQUIPPED



Faith Stories // Freedom from Striving Rev. Ben Gonzales shares his faith story through ministry, struggle, and healing. Along the way, Ben reflects how God's grace and the support of the LCMS community helped him find approval not from others, but within Christ. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDxbvNdd6bE>

EVENTS & LINKS // BE CONNECTED

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 21, 2026 // Catalyst Innovation Lab // [Learn more](#)

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2026 // DCE Spiritual Renewal Retreat // [Learn more](#)

JULY 18-23, 2026 // LCMS National Convention // [Learn more](#)

APRIL 20-21, 2026 // Theological Convocation // [Learn more](#)

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