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YOU'RE HERE**



@palmvalleylutheran



Palm Valley Lutheran Church
Round Rock



@palmvalleylutheran

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

*Looking for a way to connect? Here are some of the groups,
studies, events, and serving opportunities —
we hope to see YOU here!*

Monday, July 27

Middle School Experience Excursions
Bible Study | 10:00-11:00 am | Palm Room (weekly)

Tuesday, July 28

Middle School Experience Excursions
Ironmen Study | 7:00-8:15 am | Palm Room (weekly)
Quilters | 1:00-3:15 pm | Palm Room (weekly)
Online Bible Study | 5:00-6:30 pm (weekly)
Mahjong | 6:30-8:30 pm | Back Porch
Rejoice! Band Rehearsal | 6:30-8:00 pm
Christian Life Center (weekly)

Wednesday, July 29

Middle School Experience Excursions
Hispanic Online Bible Study | 7:30-8:30 pm (weekly)

Thursday, July 30

Middle School Experience Excursions
GriefShare | 12:30-2:30 pm | Conf. Room (monthly)
Family Outing | 5:00-7:00 pm | Rock 'N River

*Please check the current calendar
(pvlc.org/weekly-events)
for last minute changes to the above list.*

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 8266 | Round Rock, Texas 78683

Physical Address:

2500 E. Palm Valley Blvd.
Round Rock, Texas 78665
512-255-3322 | P VLC.org



CONGRATULATIONS TO MARVIN GOAD ON HIS 30-YEAR SERVICE ANNIVERSARY WITH PALM VALLEY

We celebrate your past achievements
and joyfully anticipate more beautiful
harmonies yet to come.



WELCOME, BECKY BANNISTER NEW FINANCIAL/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Outside of work, I'm a proud parent of three grown children (Elizabeth, Kelly, and Patrick) and an even prouder grandparent to five wonderful grandchildren (Breyah, Trenton, Lily, Joseph, and Nicholas), who bring so much joy to my life., I'm also a big fan of all things Mustang—whether it's the iconic car or the spirit of the name—and I have a special soft spot for sloths. Their gentle nature and unhurried approach to life never fail to make me smile. My favorite baseball team is the Houston Astros and I am a faithful Dallas Cowboys fan. I'm grateful to be part of the Palm Valley family and look forward to continuing to serve alongside this wonderful congregation.



COUNCIL CORNER

Church Council Highlights – July 2026

Palm Valley Lutheran Church Council met on **July 15** to celebrate God's blessings, review the congregation's financial health, and make several important decisions supporting ministry and future growth.

Celebrating God's Work

Council rejoiced in many signs of a vibrant and growing congregation, including three recent baptisms, a successful Vacation Bible School, and the positive community impact of Palm Valley's participation in the local parade. Several visitors have attended worship after seeing the church in the parade, and new families continue to become involved. The Monday Morning Bible Study has grown to fourteen regular participants, and an additional Puerto Rico Mission Trip is being explored in partnership with Cross Trails Ministry. Council also welcomed Pastor Dave Koppel back from vacation and expressed appreciation for guest preacher Rev. Jennifer Obermueller's ministry during his absence.

Associate Pastor Call Process

The Call Committee has completed and submitted all required paperwork to the Synod, and the Associate Pastor position has now been published nationally. Two candidate profiles have already been received, with another expected soon. Committee meetings have been scheduled through November, if needed, and the congregation will continue to receive updates through *Echoes* as the process moves forward.

Financial Update

Council reviewed June financial reports and received encouraging news that worship attendance has continued to exceed last year's numbers for approximately thirteen consecutive months. Although member giving remains about \$24,000 below budget through June, early July giving has been encouraging, including a one-time \$17,000 gift. Council also celebrated receipt of the final **\$349,500 distribution from the Lange Trust**, which has been placed in unrestricted funds to strengthen the congregation's long-term financial position.

Council also received news of a generous anonymous donor who contributed **\$50,000** in restricted gifts—\$25,000 designated for the Cemetery Team and \$25,000 for Traditional Worship & Music.

Budget and Ministry Actions

Council approved reallocating approximately **\$2,340** for Rejoice worship in-ear monitors to the previously approved Sanctuary/CLC Refresh project budget, and moved approximately **\$300** in Xperience Tour hospitality expenses to the Community Care/Missions fund, where those ministry expenses more appropriately belong.

Sanctuary & Christian Life Center Refresh

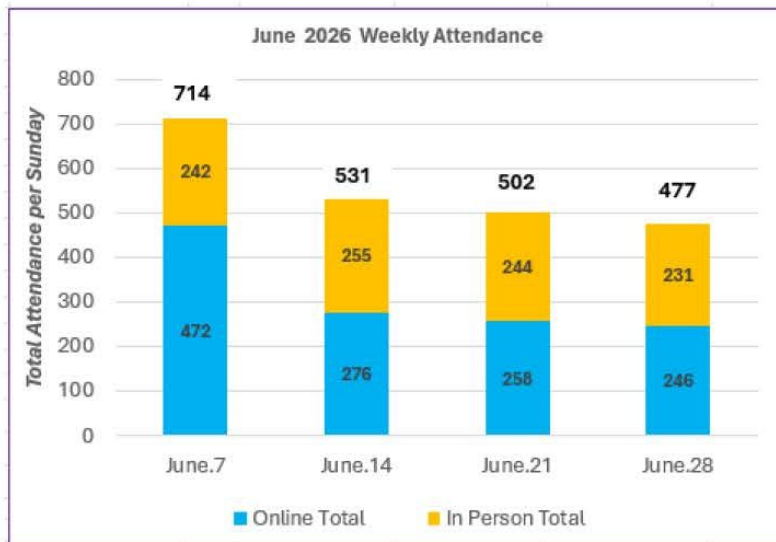
The Council reviewed the progress of the Sanctuary and Christian Life Center Refresh project, including remaining project funds, carpet installation, and protecting the newly installed LED screens. Possible protective measures were referred to the Property Committee for further evaluation, and insurance coverage will also be reviewed during the church's annual insurance renewal.

Supporting Our Mission Partners

Council addressed an accounting oversight that resulted in previously approved Synod Mission Support payments not being distributed during 2025 and 2026. To honor Palm Valley's ministry commitments, Council approved transferring **\$60,000** from the unrestricted fund to fulfill Synod Mission Support obligations and approved an additional **\$7,000** from the unrestricted fund for five nonprofit ministry partners that had been unintentionally omitted from the budget.

Leadership Updates

Council welcomed **Becky Bannister** as the church's new Financial Administrative Assistant and expressed appreciation for her successful start assisting with deposits, audit preparation, and other financial responsibilities. Council also extended heartfelt thanks to **Michael Koehn** for his eight years of faithful service as Congregational Treasurer, and appointed **Kathy Erwin** to serve as Treasurer beginning August 1, 2026. Council also appointed **David Kautz** to the Finance Team.



Member Giving Update

Budgeted for June 2026: \$71,383

Received in June 2026: \$47,070

RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

We are excited to share the progress that has been made throughout our worship and gathering spaces as part of Palm Valley's ongoing renovation project. These improvements are helping us enhance worship, and create more flexible, user-friendly spaces for our congregation and ministries.

In the **Christian Life Center**, improvements include new stage lighting, LED screens, overall sound system, lobby speakers, hearing-assist system (available for use August 2), and a Q-SYS self-serve control system which have all been completed. The Rejoice! Band has also received new in-ear monitors, wireless microphones, and additional upgraded microphones. The remaining project in the CLC is the installation of dimmable overhead lighting.

In the **Sanctuary**, improvements include new lighting for the altar and front worship area, new microphones, updated and organized wiring, Narthex speakers, a Q-SYS control system, and a hearing-assist system (available for use August 2). The final major update still to come is the installation of new speakers for the Sanctuary's overall sound system.

In the **Parish Hall**, new speakers and a Q-SYS self-serve control system have been installed and are ready to support the many ministries, meetings, and events held in the space.

We are grateful for everyone's patience and flexibility throughout this process and look forward to completing the remaining improvements soon. Thank you for your continued support as we work to make Palm Valley's spaces more welcoming and equipped to serve our congregation and community.

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR STAFF!



AUGUST SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES:

Jen Kendrick | August 1, 2024 | jkendrick@pvlc.org

Veronica Arreola, August 18, 2025
tarango831@yahoo.com (Preschool Teacher)

Veronica Wade | August 18, 2025
vwade2126@gmail.com (Preschool Teacher)

*You are amazing and we appreciate everything you do.
Thank you for your service to Palm Valley!*



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

Jessica Brunssen | August 18 | video@pvlc.org

Veronica Arreola | August 31
tarango831@yahoo.com (Preschool Teacher)

Happy Birthday from all of us!

LATE TRADITIONAL SERVICE TIME NOW 11:00 AM

The start time for the late Traditional Service is now 11:00 am. Our new Sunday service schedule is as follows:

8:00 am - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

9:30 am - Rejoice! Contemporary Service in the Christian Life Center

11:00 am - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am - Servicio de Adoración Hispana in the Parish Hall



FOR MINISTRY TEAMS

Monday, August 3 | 7:00 pm | Parish Hall

UPDATE ON WORSHIP FLOWERS



The florist that has been providing our beautiful flower arrangements for Sunday morning worship has closed indefinitely.

Therefore, we are transitioning to a new florist. With this transition, beginning August 1, the cost to sponsor one set (two arrangements) is \$120.

To sign up to sponsor worship flowers for our Traditional, Rejoice!, or Hispanic services, sign up through the app or Member Connect.

YOUTH ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE

Don't forget our **Youth Aluminum Can Drive** is still going strong! Simply place your aluminum cans (in tied plastic bags) inside the enclosed trailer parked outside the Christian Life Center.

Proceeds support Palm Valley Youth Ministry.





Thursday, July 30 | 5:00-7:00 pm

Let's gather as a church family at Rock'N River Water Park (located in Old Settler's Park) for an evening of splashing fun!

We have the "Octagon" Pavilion reserved, which will be our homebase for the evening. It is located near the "White Stone Beach."

Admission is only \$9/kid and \$10/adult, beginning at 5:00 pm. Purchase tickets at the gate.

Sign up on the app to let us know you're coming. See you there!



WATER FOR AFRICA NIGHT AT DELL DIAMOND

Wednesday, August 26 | 6:45 pm

Round Rock Express vs. Albuquerque Isotopes

Come out and enjoy an evening of baseball and help spread the word about Water for Africa!

Purchase discount tickets using your app. Be sure to enter the promotional code **H204A** before ticket shopping as this will unlock your discount! Water for Africa will receive a portion of each ticket sold using this promotional code.





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Stores are running sales on school supplies! While shopping for your kids, why not pick up a few extras!

We are collecting the following items to fill 150 backpacks that will be sent to disaster areas around the world:

- 232 each—70 or 80 page spiral notebooks
- 10 pairs—kids blunt-end scissors
- 36 boxes—crayons (24-count)
- 15 each—rulers with centimeters and inches
- 280 each—medium ball point pens, blue or black ink only (no gel pens)
- 10 each—two-inch erasers
- 59 each—pencil sharpeners

Collection point is the Christian Life Center Lobby.

*We will assemble school kits
on Saturday, September 12,
as part of God's Work. Our Hands.*



STEPHEN MINISTRY AT PALM VALLEY

Palm Valley's Stephen Ministry team members provide care to people within and outside our congregation who are dealing with serious health issues, a death in their family, loss of a job, divorce, or other difficult situations.

Stephen Ministers typically meet with their assigned care receiver once a week, or on whatever schedule works for the care receiver and the caregiver.

They offer a nonjudgmental listening ear to people in need. These one-on-one conversations are strictly confidential and, since the caring relationships are determined by the needs of the care receiver, the length of these relationships can vary greatly.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from having someone to talk with, reach out to Pastor Koppel or one of the Stephen Ministers (look for blue name tags).

MEALS ON WHEELS CENTRAL TEXAS – DRIVERS NEEDED

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for Meal Managers. We are grateful to those who prayerfully considered serving and answered the call.

We currently have an urgent need for volunteer drivers for two delivery routes, one on Wednesday and one on Thursday. The time commitment is approximately 2½ hours each week, from about 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. You may serve on your own or share a route with a partner.

This ministry is a wonderful opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ by delivering not only a nutritious meal, but also a caring smile and a friendly visit to neighbors who are among the most vulnerable in our community.

Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve in this important ministry. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love through this vital community service.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Kathy Erwin

(512) 922-0424

kjerwin@suddenlink.net



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays | Thru August 27, 2026
12:30-2:30 pm (\$10) | Palm Room

GriefShare is a lay-led, Bible-based, nondenominational grief support group which meets once a week.

Register at GriefShare.org, Find a Group.



NIGHT OF MAHJONG!

Tuesday, July 28
6:30-8:30pm | The Back Porch

Women of all ages are invited to come play Mahjong! We had so much fun earlier in July that we decided to gather twice a month to play. All levels of experience are welcome!

New to Mahjong? We will have a table for beginners with an experienced player to answer questions and teach you how to play.

Join us for a fun night out as we continue to learn how to play Mahjong together.

Future gatherings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (Month of August: August 11 & 25).

Sign up on your app so we know how many to expect.

Questions? Susan Ames, 361-765-9493 or susanibpyp@gmail.com



NEXT MONTHLY GATHER BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

Thursday, August 13
2:30 pm | Conference Room*

*one week later than normal



"SUPPER CLUB" GET TOGETHER

Thursday, August 13 | 6:30 pm

Springhill Restaurant
2505 W. Pecan Street, Pflugerville

RSVP using your app, call the church office, or contact Tammy Oetken at 512-217-4701.



WOMEN'S FORUM

Thursday, August 20 | 10:00 am | Back Porch

Sign up on your app or call the church office.

We welcome Helen Outlaw, Susan & Keith Outlaw's niece, as our guest speaker. Helen and her husband were missionaries in Honduras for eight years. She will tell us what life was like as a missionary.

Feel free to bring a snack to share if you are able.

Remember to bring your own drink.

Invite a friend!

UPCOMING MINISTRY MEETINGS

NEXT FALL FAIR PLANNING MEETING

Monday, August 3 | 7:00 pm
Grace Night | Parish Hall

NEXT GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS MEETING

Monday, August 3 | 7:00 pm
Grace Night | Office Workroom



**PALM VALLEY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Save
THE Date!*

SMALL GROUP Forums



**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 16**
PALM ROOM



SESSION TIMES

- 9:15 a.m.
- 10:45 a.m.
- 12:15 p.m.



**HEAR REAL STORIES OF
FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, AND COMMUNITY**

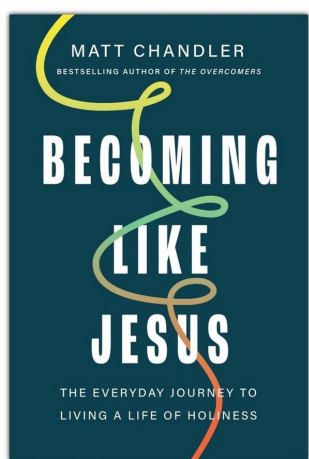
Have you ever wondered what it's like to be part of a small group?

Join us for one of our Small Group Forums and hear firsthand from current small group leaders and participants about how being involved in a small group has strengthened their faith, built lasting friendships, and helped them grow as disciples of Jesus.

Whether you're thinking about joining a small group, exploring the possibility of leading one, or simply want to learn more, these informal forums are a great opportunity to ask questions and discover how small groups can help you connect, grow, and serve.

Everyone is welcome—we hope you'll join us and discover the difference a small group can make!

SMALL GROUP LEADERS NEEDED FOR PALM VALLEY'S ANNUAL FALL STUDY!



Help our church grow in faith and community by leading a **Fall Focus Small Group**! During this six-week churchwide study, *Becoming Like Jesus*, beginning **September 13–October 18**, we'll journey through the Beatitudes in Matthew 5.

No experience is necessary! We'll provide training, discussion guides, and

everything you need to lead with confidence. You choose the day, time, and location to host—whether at your home, at church, or online through Zoom. Your role is simply to create a welcoming space for conversation and spiritual growth.

Leader Training

Choose one of the training sessions that fits your worship schedule and sign up on the app:

Sunday, August 23

- 9:15–10:15 am
- 10:45–11:45 am
- 12:15–1:15 pm

or

Sunday, August 30

- 9:15–10:15 am
- 10:45–11:45 am
- 12:15–1:15 pm

Interested or have questions?

Contact **Kelley Adams** at the church office (smallgroups@pvlc.org). I'd love to visit with you, answer your questions, and help you discern whether leading a small group is right for you!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

Sunday, August 16

During Children's Message at
8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 Services

All children, students, and teachers are invited forward for a special Back-to-School Blessing.



**Palm Valley
Preschool**

A place of joyful learning and faithful beginnings.

REGISTRATION OPEN
FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!

Now Offering the
NEW 5 Day Program
alongside our 3 Day Program!



NEW 5 DAY PROGRAM

Monday-Friday
9 AM - 2 PM

Ages 18 months through Pre-K



OUR BELOVED 3 DAY PROGRAM

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9 AM - 2 PM

Ages 18 months through Pre-K

Palm Valley Preschool is a ministry of Palm Valley Lutheran Church.
Our play-based program nurtures the whole child—spiritual, social, emotional, and early academic development in a warm and caring environment.

SCHEDULE A TOUR—WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU!

✉ preschool@pvlc.org • 512-388-5054

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR AUGUST FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER!

Check out your August Newsletter
coming to you this week!



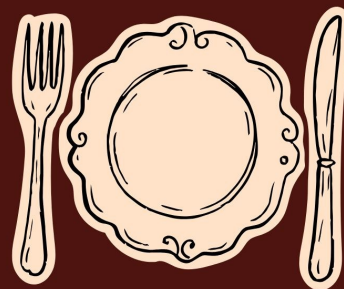
Let us know how you would like to be
involved in our growing community
of young families deepening
their faith in God.

Reach out to Helen Pelkey
at children@pvlc.org.

PALM VALLEY
SISTER CIRCLE

Ladies Night

Young Women and Mothers of Kids and Teens -
Summer has ended and school is back in session.
Let's connect for a night of fellowship, laughs, and good food.



26 August 2026 | 6:30 PM | Purely Provisions
212 W Main St, Round Rock, TX 78664

RSVP to Helen at children@pvlc.org.



News from the Southwestern Texas Synod



HILL COUNTRY FLOOD RESPONSE: ON THE GROUND AND MOVING FORWARD

In response to the severe Hill Country flooding, our disaster response team has rapidly mobilized to bring relief, resources, and stability to the hardest-hit areas. We are actively coordinating across multiple levels to ensure affected families get exactly what they need.

Here is an update on our current operations:

- **State-Level Resource Coordination:** We are working directly with state agencies to secure and distribute vital resources, ensuring they reach the communities in immediate need as quickly as possible.
- **Partnering with GEM in Kerr County:** In collaboration with the Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), we are supporting Kerr County residents by equipping volunteer crews with the essential supplies required for mucking and gutting flooded homes.
- **Ecumenical Relief Network:** To expand our footprint on the ground, we are proud to partner with St. Peter's Episcopal Church and the United Methodist groups. By pooling our resources and networks, we are able to serve more families efficiently.
- **Immediate & Long-Term Volunteer Operations:** We are rapidly organizing immediate, boots-on-the-ground volunteer efforts for urgent relief and cleanup, while also building out sustained, long-term volunteer opportunities for anyone looking to step up and help these communities rebuild in the months ahead.

To learn more: swtsynod.org