



## City of Saint Hedwig

### *Message from Mayor*

May 24, 2023

As we pause and remember the tragedy that occurred one year ago today in Uvalde, I ask that everyone take a moment to stop and say a prayer for the city of Uvalde and its residents. This day they relive the pain and horror of losing their loved ones, friends and neighbors a year ago. This day they continue to experience the frustration and anger at lawmakers who will not listen to them and their experience.

I remember another senseless act of violence that I was personally involved in, the Sutherland Springs massacre. On that day, I received a call from a Judge in Wilson County who had attended one of my mass fatality presentations and she asked me to come over to Wilson County and meet with some of the County and City officials to perhaps provide some direction on how to work through this tragedy. I remember driving by our church in Saint Hedwig on my way to the Sutherland Springs thinking this could have happened here – this could have been our friends or family. I felt the same sick feeling when I heard about Uvalde a year ago. How could two of the worse mass shooting happened so close to us and we still believe it could not happen here?

Today is not a day of politics, however, it is a day of remembrance and healing. It is a day to hold the people of Uvalde in our hearts and prayers and maybe reflect on how fortunate we are to have our loved ones with us when so many of them do not. We also should not forget others who may not have lost a loved one, but have been permanently and forever affected by this tragedy, including the first responders who will carry this in their souls all the rest of their lives, and the city personnel who have worked to keep Uvalde together for the past year - so many people touched by the incredible act of violence and horror. It is appropriate that we honor the victims this day and keep them in our thoughts, for it is surely true that those who forget history are condemned to repeat it. We have repeated it enough.

The City of Saint Hedwig holds the people of Uvalde in our prayers and thoughts. We pray that God gives you hope and strength and peace. You are Uvalde strong!

Mayor Dee Grimm RN, JD  
Municipal Court Judge  
City of Saint Hedwig

