



Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

A Startling Surprise

On that startling weekend that both fulfilled and changed all of history, Mark reports that the first witnesses to the resurrection, those three women “went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Mark 16:8. The men were no better. As John reports, they stayed home, protecting their rears “behind locked doors for fear of the authorities.” John 21:19. Quite a beginning to Christ’s Church!

But both the women and the men get the biggest, most startling surprise of their lives. Their fears and their doubting could not keep Jesus from getting to them. When those dutiful women arrived, they found his tomb empty and the young fella seated inside in his Easter best announced to them: “Don’t be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.” And those burly but fearful men hiding behind locked doors? The freshly risen Jesus walked right in and declared “Peace be with you. As the father sent me, even so I am sending you. If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” John 20:20-23

Isn’t it something how the crucified and risen Christ takes striving, fearful, doubting sinners and turns us into his witnesses? Here’s to having our mouths opened by the Holy Spirit so that those near and even those not so dear to us might have their sins retained when needed and forgiven when needed. Again and again.



David Doss, President

Your Church Council is Considering New Initiatives

I’m sure if you’ve driven around New Braunfels lately you’ve noticed more traffic, more homes, and more people. The dynamic growth of New Braunfels supplies St. Paul Lutheran the opportunity to spread God’s Word to many who are un-churched or are looking for a church home. Times have never been better to evangelize!

With all this growth in the community St. Paul needs to be poised to accept the challenge and responsibility to reach as many people as possible. This is why your church council is looking at ways to help our congregants use their spiritual gifts most effectively. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

As we move into April, we will have meetings to discuss the changes. As always everyone is invited to join in on any meeting being held.

What does the new re-organization look like? We want to simplify church governance. We should be spending more time serving our mission rather than serving our structure. The council and committees will be changed to make them more efficient; fewer people and meetings while still getting the mission accomplished and with continuing oversight. Boards will become teams. The teams will still have meetings and carry out their duties. With the teams more people can participate without having to worry about an established quorum. If you have a passion (gift) to serve on a certain team, GO FOR IT!!

Finally, we will still be a Christ centered church that is congregationally driven, council directed, and people delivered.

As always, if you have any questions don’t hesitate to reach out to me or any other council member. For your convenience, you may refer to the attached/enclosed *Frequently Asked Questions* Sheet that may answer some of your questions.

As a Christ-centered, Gospel-driven Congregation, we are called by our Lord Jesus to go and make disciples of all nations. We will be a congregation that engages people in order to help families follow Jesus.

* Promote a culture of family ... supporting home prayer & Bible study with parents as key teachers

* Increase our outreach and mission presence outside our walls* Strive for excellence in spiritual leadership



Chip Reynolds, Pastor

I love and hate the transition from winter to spring. The temperature starts to become pleasant again. The plants, flowers and trees all begin to show their life as well. There is just a generally good feeling about the possibilities of all that is to come.

But there are some things that I could do without as well. Allergies, snakes, allergies, 100+ temperatures, allergies.

So, when my eyes are itching out of my head and I can't turn my nose off, it sometimes becomes difficult to keep my focus on the good stuff.

I hit my spiritual spring from time to time as well. There is so much to be grateful for in my life. Great things that God is doing, great seasons of life. And yet, Satan has a way of distracting me from all that good.

James 4:6-7 says: ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

To cling to God's grace is the only defense against Satan so grab hold, never let go, and trust in his goodness. He loves you that much.

Christ is our only need when we are in the midst of our spiritual springs and Satan is really messing with our eyes. Jesus has you!

Wednesday Family Dinners



April 7 – pizza, apple, raw veggies, ice cream

April 14 – beef enchilada casserole, canned peaches, tossed salad with ranch, tortilla, rice crispy treat

April 21 – frito pie, fresh fruit, raw veggies, corn chips, cookies

April 28 – cowboy stew, fruit cocktail, green beans with tomatoes, bread/roll, cake

Women's Bible Study

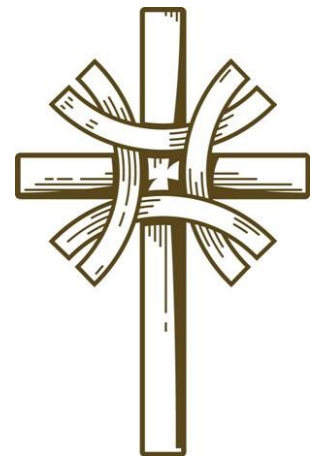
The next Women's Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. It is a DVD study presented by Beth Moore on the book of Esther. All women are invited to attend. If you would like to join us in this study, please contact Ola Fischer by text at 210-215-9460.



New Disciples

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest disciples:

- ◆ The Brittain Family—Kevin, Brittney, Kade and Tucker
- ◆ Elizabeth Aadland
- ◆ The McDaniel Family—Eric, Jeremy and Nancy
- ◆ Rebecca Martin and daughter, Erika Martin
- ◆ Herb Plehn





April Altar Flowers

- April 4** - Open
- April 11** - Open
- April 18** - Open
- April 25** - Melford & Laverne Georg

If you are interested in providing Altar flowers, please check the flower calendar on the bulletin board in the Lobby for available dates or you can call the Church office at (830) 625-9191.
Thank you!

Raising a Healthy Baby



**Wednesdays, April 14-April 28
6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 212**

Are you interested in baptizing your child? Learn more about the physical, emotional and spiritual development of your baby. Please RSVP to kimberly@nbstpaul.org.

Foundation Series

**Sundays, April 18-May 16
9:15-10:15 a.m., Room 212**



Learn about what we believe and teach, prayer, history of Lutheran churches, St. Paul, and Faith Stepping Stones.

St. Martin Picnic

**Sunday, April 11
Noon-2:00 p.m.**



Join us for Fun, Fellowship, Flowers & Food. A sack lunch will be provided. Bring a friend, a blanket and lawn chairs. Plan to take pictures in the bluebonnets!

Raising a Healthy Kindergartner

**Sundays, April 18 – May 2
9:15-10:15 a.m., Room 152**



Have a child starting school in Fall 2021? This series will help parents and children navigate the transition to elementary school. We will focus on physical, emotional, academic and spiritual milestones you can expect at this phase of childhood.

Treasured VBS

**Monday, June 21 – Thursday, June 24
9:00 a.m. – Noon**



Children PreK4-recently completed 5th grade won't want to miss Treasured VBS. Each day children will learn how they are priceless to God through upbeat music, fun games, science gizmos, crafts and exciting Bible adventures. We have a great VBS Family Night planned for Thursday, June 24 which will feature performances by the children, a fun skit and some of our exciting VBS activities. We hope your family will join us! Registration will be available at www.nbstpaul.org beginning the week of April 12.

VBS Volunteer Meeting

**Sunday, April 11
11:30 p.m., Room 212**

Volunteers are key to the success of this huge children's ministry and outreach event. We need people to serve as group leaders, and assist with different zones, registration, decorations and more. Whether you can help for the entire week, a few hours or from the comfort of your home, we have a job for you. Please come to learn more about volunteer opportunities associated with VBS and share your ideas for planning. If you can't make the meeting, but would like to know more about volunteering, contact Kimberly Wunderlich at kimberly@nbstpaul.org.

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CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191
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April 2021



www.nbstpaul.org

Sunday morning worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m. Bible Study Hour

We are continuing to live stream both services on our website, Face Book and YouTube.



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ST. PAUL
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simply engaging

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