



## Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

### **Rescue for Your Impatient Soul**

My favorite grocery store is HEB. I enjoy going into the store so I don't use the service, but you can pick up your groceries already bagged curbside. My go to online shopping tool is Amazon Prime... that "one click next day delivery" stuff is pretty nice.

But real life in your family and in the neighborhood cannot be conveniently delivered curbside. Real relationships are not one click and done. The Devil loves to take the conveniences we develop for ourselves and twist them into "electronic fig leaves," disguises that allow us to amuse and titillate ourselves **right now...**, while we hide from one another and from God. By this trick, the old, skillful Adversary renders us increasingly impatient.

What do impatient people like us need? More rush to more immediate gratification?

Our Lord gives us his Word on this: as Christians we are people who WAIT. We are waiting to celebrate Jesus incarnation (not really his birthday, even though we talk about Christmas that way). Christ has been in existence since before the beginning of time with the Father and the Holy Spirit; the nativity is when he became incarnate... with hair, bones, skin and teeth... and ultimately to die and rise to be our Lord and Savior.

What we really are waiting for is heaven... our death and resurrection into the eternal kingdom rather than this kingdom we think we've made for ourselves with our hands. Amen, come Lord Jesus, deliver us from our impatience and into your kingdom... for then we receive trust in you and love for our neighbor.

Join us on the first three Wednesday evenings in December while we wait for Jesus together.



## Tex Brown, President

November has flown by and December is upon us. Many events will be taking place at/around our church so check the calendar and come be involved and bring your friends. We just celebrated a successful "Above and Beyond" campaign to raise funds for the Endowment Foundation to pay for the new addition to our church. Of course more funds are always appreciated and will be accepted to complete the project of the additional 6 classrooms to be used for Sunday morning Bible study as well as youth activities and pre-school growth. Our church is growing and we need to meet the needs of our growth for the future.

Thanksgiving was great and we all give thanks to God for the many blessings we have had bestowed upon us. Now the Advent and Christmas season is just around the corner. Wednesday Advent services, special family and children's events, as well as several caroling opportunities will be held this month, so come be blessed as we prepare for the Coming of our Savior and Christ child on Christmas Day! Of course, the three candlelight Christmas Eve services will be the highlight of the season, so gather your family, invite your friends and neighbors to worship with us at any or all the events planned for this season of joy and celebration at St Paul.

Merry CHRISTmas!

*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



## Wild Game Dinner 2020

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Wild Game Dinner will be held on **Saturday, February 1, 2020** at the New Braunfels Civic and Conversion Center.

The 2020 recipients are:

- *Youth Ministry*
- *Cross Trails Outfitters*
- *The Gabriel Project*
- *Options for Life*
- *New Life Children's Center*
- *Trinity Oaks*
- *Communities in Schools*
- *Reel Recovery*

There is help needed in all areas as we expect to serve in excess of 800 for the 2020 event. It is a great way to meet other members of St. Paul and is a tremendous amount of fun. For questions, contact the church office, a committee member, or Lance Bielke, and/ or Garth Bielke.

St. Paul Church Office  
Lance Bielke, Chairman  
Garth Bielke, Co-Chairman

[lbielke@gmail.com](mailto:lbielke@gmail.com)  
[garth.bielke@minigrip.com](mailto:garth.bielke@minigrip.com)

(830) 625-9191  
(210) 508-8393  
(830) 305-1812

### Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas Program will take place during the 10:30 a.m. service on **Sunday, December 15**. The program will be presented by our pre-school and children's music programs.



### Caroling at St. Martin

**Sunday, December 22**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate the Season at St. Martin. St. Martin is the oldest Lutheran Church building in Texas, constructed in 1851. The original location was on Church Hill Drive next to a still existing one-room school building, and across from Conservation Plaza. The plaster walls, wood floor and ceiling create a delightful place for singing Christmas Carols. A fellowship reception will follow at Forke Store in Conservation Plaza. Plan to attend both; you will be lifted up as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. Please join us and bring something to share!



### Celebrating Christmas

#### Advent Dinners at 5:30 p.m.:

December 4 - Chicken Spaghetti

December 11 - Taco Soup

December 18 - Firehouse Subs, Chips and Snacks (6:30 p.m. caroling followed by cookies and hot chocolate bar)

(\*please bring a dozen cookies to share with your SPLC family!)

#### Family Potluck Dinner:

December 15 - Children's Christmas Program during late service. Congregational Life Board and church volunteers will provide Turkey. Please bring a dish to share after late service. If you plan to attend, please sign-up in the Lobby.

#### Angel Tree:

We will be working with Tree of Life Family Center again this year to provide gifts for families. All gifts should be turned in, **unwrapped by Tuesday, December 10th**.

It's starting to look a lot like Christmas! Get in the spirit of the season by joining in on any of the celebrations. Please call M'Lissa (830-660-9065) or the church office (830-625-9191-Alison) with any questions.



## St Paul Youth News

### Wednesdays, December 4 and 11

5:30 p.m. – Advent dinner  
6:30 p.m. – Advent service  
Open gym following service

### Wednesday, December 18

6:30 p.m. – Neighborhood caroling

Youth Christmas parties - TBA



### Poinsettias

Christmas poinsettias gracing the sanctuary and lobby have been sponsored in memory or honor of loved ones. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, return sponsorship forms and \$12 per plant to the Church Office by **December 11**. Checks should be made payable to SPLC and include “poinsettias” in the memo line. Poinsettias may be taken home following the Children’s Program on December 15 or following Christmas Eve Services. Contact Lynn Lear or the church office with any questions.

## December Worship Schedule

Advent Worship  
Wednesdays, December 4 & 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship  
3:00, 5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

## December Flowers



December 1 - Linda Kraly  
December 8 - Ken & Lisa Brucks  
December 15 - Suzi Casey  
December 22 - James & Pam Walls  
December 29 - Glenn & Muriel Ostberg

## Preschool Ministry

The preschool collected loose change for the *All for Books* program during our book fair. We were able to purchase 11 books that we will donate to the Comal County Crisis Center. It is a blessing to share the love of books with our community.



## Calling all Carolers!

We will be caroling on **Wednesday, December 18** at 6:30 p.m. Help us share the good news of Jesus' birth and reach out to families this season in the Mockingbird Heights subdivision. Transportation will be provided and refreshments will be served at the church after caroling at 7:30 p.m. Friends and family are welcome to participate, so bring someone new to join in the fun!

## Breaking Bread

New Breaking Bread groups will be forming mid-January. We all have very busy schedules, but setting aside one day a month to meet with church members you do not know well is so satisfying: great food, lively conversations, and, best of all, the joy of connecting with others traveling this road of faith. Contact Dotty Collins (830) 708-5198 and leave a message or email [dotty@postofficerealty.com](mailto:dotty@postofficerealty.com). The more the merrier!!!



Texas District

## Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



To read Pastor Bryce’s latest article in its entirety, please go to:

<http://www.lcmctexas.org/mission-moment>

## Thank You

We would like to thank all of our church family for the love and support given the last few months. We could feel the prayers that were lifted up for us while Larry and I were in Bordeaux. Thank you to all of those that surrounded Kristi here at home. We could not have made it without God’s wings wrapped around us.

All our love and gratitude,

Sue Schwab and Family

Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - [pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org](mailto:pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org)  
Executive Director of Operations & Preschool - Michelle Rivera - [michelle@nbstpaul.org](mailto:michelle@nbstpaul.org)  
Communications Coordinator - Jennifer Burrows - [jennifer@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jennifer@nbstpaul.org)  
Bookkeeper/Controller - Stacy Garcia - [stacy@nbstpaul.org](mailto:stacy@nbstpaul.org)  
Director of Music & Creative Arts - Jody Noblett - [jody@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jody@nbstpaul.org)  
Maintenance Technician- Jason Crofford - [jason@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jason@nbstpaul.org)  
F3 Ministry Manager - Kimberly Wunderlich - [Kimberly@nbstpaul.org](mailto:Kimberly@nbstpaul.org)  
Organist - Ann Brown - [annb003@aol.com](mailto:annb003@aol.com)  
Staff - Alison Setser - [alison@nbstpaul.org](mailto:alison@nbstpaul.org)  
Staff - Jo Schomberg - [jo@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jo@nbstpaul.org)  
Staff - Lorrie Cook - [lorrie@nbstpaul.org](mailto:lorrie@nbstpaul.org)  
CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191  
PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044  
FAX (830) 620-7715

**December 2019**



[www.nbstpaul.org](http://www.nbstpaul.org)

Please join us on Sunday mornings for worship and the Bible study hour:  
Traditional Worship 8:00 a.m.; Bible study hour 9:15-10:15 a.m.; Informal Worship 10:30 a.m.



777 W. San Antonio St.  
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

**ST. PAUL**  
**LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH**  
*simply engaging*

*Non Profit Organ.*  
*U.S. Postage Pd.*  
*Permit #90*  
*New Braunfels, TX 78130*

MEMBER LCMC  
Return Services Requested

