

The Epistle



Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

While we wait...Advent 2018

While our culture and the marketers began their sprint to the Christmas shopping season even before October was ended, Christians and pregnant mothers know what it is to ***wait***. No matter how urgent the desire or demand of others, you cannot rush God.



Join us for worship this December while we wait for Christ. On December 5 and 12 a tasty dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.; worship starts at 6:30 p.m. These Wednesday services are informal and will last about 35 minutes. Sunday services are 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. Bring your whole family.

Here's the schedule:

Sunday, December 2	<i>What are we waiting For?</i>	Luke 21:25-36
Wednesday, December 5	<i>In the meantime...</i>	I Thess 3:9-13
Sunday, December 9	<i>Repentance: the Crooked Get Straightened Out</i>	Luke 3:1-14
Wednesday, December 12	<i>God's Not Finished with You Yet</i>	Phil 1:2-11
Sunday, December 16	<i>Is Jesus the One?</i>	Luke 7:18-28
Wednesday, December 16	<i>Caroling in the Neighborhood followed by supper</i>	
Sunday, December 23	<i>Why are these Pregnant Women Excited?</i>	Luke 1:39-45
Monday, Christmas Eve	<i>Jesus is Not Safe... He is Good</i>	Luke 2:1-20
3, 5, & 7:30 p.m.		

Advent Dinners

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

December 5 - Baked potato bar, salad, and brownies

December 12 - Taco Soup, cornbread, and dessert

December 19 - Hors d'oeuvres and chicken nuggets, caroling (no service), cookies & hot chocolate (please bring 1 dozen cookies to share with a SPLC neighbor, and a dozen to share with the hungry carolers after singing)

Also, please check the lobby for an Angel Tree for giving opportunities this Christmas Season.



Breaking Bread Together



New groups will form in January with host homes offering the main dish and others (+ children) bringing side dishes to break bread together. For about 1 1/2 hours we do two of our favorite things--eat and talk--to get better acquainted. We'll continue to meet in February, March, and April. We pray you'll take this opportunity to connect with your church family and build new, lasting relationships. Each group governs itself on meeting dates, host homes and menu. It's all about fellowship!

Look for handouts in late December, early January to sign up for the fun or contact Dotty Collins at (830) 629-5129 or Dotty@postofficerealty.com.

Breaking Bread wants you!

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



John Magness, Congregational President

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ... abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7.

What a super Congregational meeting. Thank you for your participation and show of confidence in what your council recommended. A recap includes:

1. Approved the 2019 Spending Plan for Mission and Ministry (budget).
2. Approved the Emergency Spending Resolution for Council to commit up to \$75,000 for any emergency.
3. Approved the Constitution and Bylaw changes.
4. Approved the Building Commission's recommendation to proceed with adding six classrooms. The addition will be fully funded by the St. Paul Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation. Thank you, Building Commission, for your hard work. Thank you, Foundation, for this gift.
5. Ratified M'Lissa Steel as Director of Congregational Life.
6. Received reports from the delegates to our District and National Gatherings.
7. Some of the announcements for upcoming events included:
 - a) Wild Game Dinner (Feb. 2, 2019) tickets are on sale; Azeneth will lead “tamale making” on January 4 & 5.
 - b) Christmas caroling at St. Martin on Dec. 9 at 4:00 p.m.. Please bring children/grandchildren/spouse/friend/neighbor. Cookies welcome.
 - c) 2019 “Breaking Bread” begins in January.
 - d) Christmas Eve Services: 3:00, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Finally, remember your home prayer and Bible study. Pray for and build a relationship with a neighbor who is waiting for you. I pray God's peace.

Wild Game Dinner

2018 St. Paul Wild Game Dinner – Will be here before we know it!

The 15th annual Wild Game Dinner will be held on Saturday February 2, 2019 at the New Braunfels Civic and Convention Center. Please save the date, volunteer to help, and invite your neighbors!

This is the main community outreach and fellowship event for St. Paul. The committee has set a goal of serving 800 during the event. Three things need to happen to reach that goal. First, and most important, is the guidance of our Lord. Second is the involvement of the St. Paul Church members as volunteers, donors, and event participants. Third is for you to invite your neighbors and your friends.

What Happens During the Event: In addition to the great fellowship, the event includes: dinner with a wide variety of wild game and **non-game items: (fried fish and chicken tenders)**, live and silent auctions, a drawings, and a dance featuring live music by local country artist Bret Graham. Donations for the live and silent auction are being received at the church office. For the 2019, event we have enhanced the kids zone.

What Happens to the Proceeds: The 2019 recipients are:

- * **New Life Children's Center** - a residential treatment center for severely troubled girls ages 11–17
- * **Cross Trails Outfitters** - a Christian-based youth outdoors program
- * **Trinity Oaks** - an outdoors experience for veterans, youth, terminally ill, and persons with disabilities
- * **The Gabriel Project** - a youth crisis pregnancy counseling and assistance program
- * **Communities in Schools** - provides support to help students stay in school and succeed in life
- * **Options for Life** - nonprofit, Christ-centered organization dedicated to educating and encouraging people to choose life.
- * **Youth Ministry** - supports youth programs, including summer camps, mission trips, VBS and more



Now is the time to get involved: You can help by getting involved. There is help needed in all areas as we expect to serve in excess of 800 for the 2019 event. It is a great way to meet other members of St. Paul and is a tremendous amount of fun. For questions you can 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
garth.bielke@minigrip.com

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

Preschool Ministry

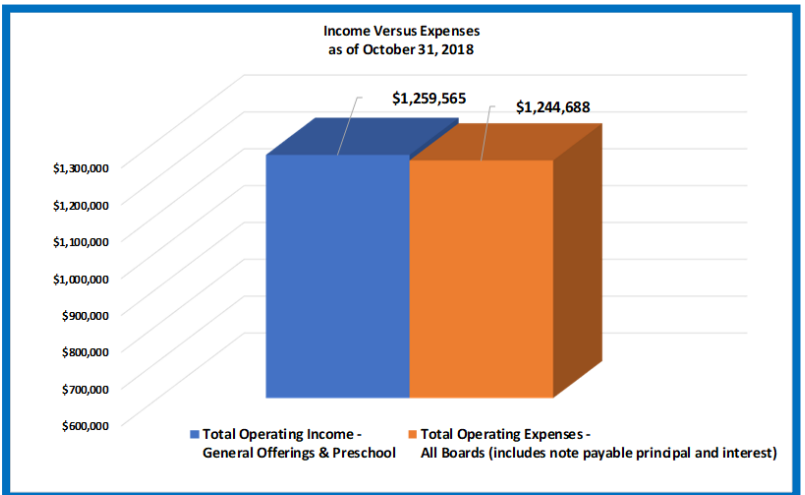
Happy birthday, Jesus! Yes, we know that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday, but do preschoolers know? It will be a new idea to some of them. We have the best jobs in the world because we get to share with preschoolers for the first time that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday! Jesus has a birthday? Yep, He sure does! And, we are going to celebrate it BIG! We also want our preschoolers to know that the reason we celebrate Jesus' birthday is because Jesus is God's Son. God's Son deserves a celebration as big as Christmas and a birthday bash as big as the one we're going to give Him this month! Jesus is that special!



Dec. 2 - Theodore Arnst
Dec. 9 - Korvan & Jill Kreusler
Dec. 16 - Open
Dec. 23 - Kelly's & Pfluger's
Dec. 30 - Glenn & Muriel Ostberg

Thank You NB Fire Department

St. Paul youth say "thank you" to our firefighters with delicious pies!



St Paul Youth News

Sunday, December 16

5:00 p.m. - High School Progressive Dinner
(5-9 p.m. for all current 9th-12th graders and their Guides)
Meet at church to begin eating dinner throughout the evening at homes of various church families.

Friday, December 21

6:30 p.m. - Middle School Christmas party
(for all current 6th-8th graders and their Guides at the Lear residence)

Wednesday, December 26

NO events for the youth planned at this time.

Please remember poinsettias are available to take home after the Christmas Eve services.



Mission Moment

Texas District

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>



St. Martin Caroling
Sunday, December 9
4:00 p.m.

Board & Committee Reports can be found on the website at
<http://www.nbstpaul.org/resources/board-reports/>

Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org

Pastor - Rev. Charles "Chip" Reynolds - pastorchip@nbstpaul.org.

Executive Director of Operations & Preschool - Michelle Rivera - michelle@nbstpaul.org

Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Burrows - jennifer@nbstpaul.org

Bookkeeper/Controller - Stacy Garcia - stacy@nbstpaul.org

Director of Music & Creative Arts - Jody Noblett - jody@nbstpaul.org

Maintenance - Jason Crofford - jason@nbstpaul.org

Organist - Ann Brown

Staff - Alison Setser - alison@nbstpaul.org

Staff - Jo Schomberg - jo@nbstpaul.org

Staff - Shelby Hines - shelby@nbstpaul.org

CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191

PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044

FAX (830) 620-7715



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.



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