



Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

Let me call you sweetheart

You and I have been saying for years now that as a congregation, as disciples of Jesus, we will be *simply engaging*. Well, February is a pretty ripe month for us to be engaging in conversations about romance, relationships, and marriage.

So, with loving care you might ask your friends and family: what are you doing for Valentine's Day? Further, you might ask: "I'm curious; what made you decide to do that?" Or you might ask: "what message do you hear in our culture (the media, Internet, schools, your peers) regarding relationships? regarding sexual intimacy? regarding marriage?"

It has been my experience that many people are far more hungry for honest conversations about relationships, struggles, intimacy, forgiveness, and marriage than they are for chocolates.

Again, for years as a congregation we have not only said that we will be simply engaging... But that we will do so *in order to help more families follow Jesus*. God did write The Book on relationships and life. So, as you engage people with gentleness and respect, you might want to keep in mind and even offer to read with these beloved people what the Author of life has to say. Here are just a few key passages: Genesis 2.18-25; I Corinthians 6.12-20; and Ephesians 5.15-33. For further reading, see: *The Good News About Marriage* by Shaunti Fieldhahn (Multnomah Books, 2014) also, *Cheap Sex: The Transformation of Men, Marriage, and Monogamy* by Mark Regnerus (Oxford, 2017).

Simply engaging. May God bless you and me with gentleness and respect... that we may speak the truth in love.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Tex Brown, President

It is hard to believe the new year is upon us and we have started a new decade....We just had a wonderful Advent season culminating in Christmas Eve services where our attendance exploded. Now to get those same folks back with us on a regular basis throughout the year. The year 2020 promises to be a great year and one in which SPLC and the Gospel of Jesus Christ will certainly experience growth and prosperity. The city of New Braunfels just approved our petition with the permits for expanding our classroom capacity so the selected contractor will be starting very soon. Our expectation is to have 6 additional classrooms for Sunday morning Bible study and additional space for the pre-school to grow as well by the start of the new school year (September). The youth of the church will also see improved facilities and space so they can grow. This is a very exciting time to be at SPLC.

But we are also very saddened by the loss of one of the "Godfathers" of our congregation. Harold Voges went to be with Jesus in January. He was a stalwart of this church and a Godly man who loved our Lord and Savior. Just a few weeks before, he told our Men's Sunday School class he was ready to see Jesus and knew where he was going. He was an awesome example of faith and lived a life of love and hope. All our love and affection go to his beloved, Doris Nell and his entire family. All of us who knew Harold were made better by his presence and friendship. He would want us to move forward, bring others to Christ, and Serve the Lord and that's what we will do!!

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



**Currently
Deployed
Returning
11/2020**

Chip Reynolds, Pastor

There is a story in Matthew 19 that talks about the rich man who came to Jesus ready to do whatever he could to follow Him. When Jesus tells him what that would look like Scripture says “he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” There are other places in the Bible that speak of hardened hearts that don’t see the need to change. And none of them have happy endings...just ask Pharaoh.

I sat with an Aussie chaplain today and he said that ministry in Australia is like “plowing concrete hearts.” What an image. It stuck with me. I honestly think that it will stick with me for a long time. Why? Because we live in a society of concrete hearts. Hearts with walls so solid that even when face-to-face with God we turn and walk away sadly because we have too much to give up. How painful is ministry in that world?

Painful. Very painful.

Can you imagine a team of oxen, yoked together, pulling a plow across a concrete parking lot? The level of futility in that thought is mind boggling. And yet that is exactly what we are called to do. Fix the harnesses, tighten the straps, sharpen the plow and get to work. Why?

Because it will not be because of the work that we do but it will be about the work that God does to soften those hearts for our plow to pull across. Therein lies faith. I have to believe that God can do enough to peel away the layers so that the exposed hearts can experience Christ in ways that I could never imagine. That’s what ministry looks like. That’s what I want my ministry to look like.

I am adopting the Concrete Heart image as my own image for ministry. I have to remember that no matter how hard it may seem that inside concrete-encased heart is a heart that needs Jesus. They are hearts that truly want to break free from the walls that surround them and keep them from being free. That is what I want my ministry to be about. As we do this together, pray for me in the plowing process and I will pray for you in yours.

Love from the East,
PC



Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for Rocky Railway VBS June 15-19. During this faith-filled adventure, children age four through fifth grade will discover how trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Want to lead kids on this journey? Contact Andi Holmgren at (210) 410-8777, Pamela Henderson at (209) 777-9572 or email ybs@nbstpaul.org.

Women’s Retreat

April 17-19

Ladies, write it on your calendars now for our annual Women’s Retreat. Online registration coming soon!

Congregational Life Board

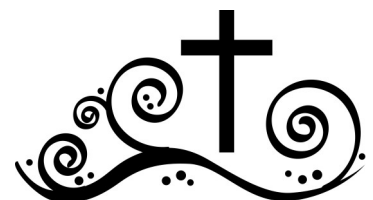


Are you new to SPLC, or a seasoned member, looking for a way to get involved? We’d love to have you join our board and lend a helping hand. We facilitate the Lenten dinners, get the Quilting Ministry quilts ready to ship to Lutheran Word Relief, celebrate July 4th, sponsor the Pie Social at Thanksgiving, decorate St. Paul (except for the Sanctuary and Chapel), facilitate the Angel Tree for underprivileged children and facilitate the Advent meals. Our board also has several ongoing committees: Hospital Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Bereavement Ministry (receptions for funerals), Kitchen Angels (meals to congregants), and the Coffee Ministry.

In the past we’ve coordinated Worship in the Park which this year will be a Family Concert in the Park sponsored by several boards. We would love to have you join us as a volunteer or board member. If you’re interested, have questions or ideas for the future, please contact M’Lissa Steel (830) 660-9065 or email msteel1962@gmail.com or Roxanne Duelm (830) 708-6528 or email roxyduelm@sbcglobal.net.

Thank You

The George M. Guidroz family is deeply grateful for the kindness and compassion received from their St. Paul Lutheran family during their time of loss.



St Paul Youth News

St. Paul Youth Group (6th grade - 12th grade):

- February 5 - Open gym & fellowship 6-8:00 p.m.
- February 12 - ARK & fellowship 6-8:00 p.m.
- February 19 - BINGO @ Kirkwood
- February 26 - Pancake supper - Youth group is responsible for cooking and serving. Please mark your calendar!!

CAMP EAGLE

June 8-13

sign up link:

<https://shelbygiving.com/App/Form/a52042c6-eb4c-4191-a4f3-8e35876b5014>

- Open to all 6th - 12th graders (completed grade)
- \$25 deposit is required for sign up
- Deadline is 2/24 for sign up - anything after that, you will not be guaranteed a spot!!
- Full payment of \$255 is due by June 1
- Scholarship is due by 5/1 - please contact church office

***** CHAPERONE NEEDED!! We are in need of one more male chaperone for camp. If you are interested, please contact Lynn Lear @ (210) 215-1410*****

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

July 21 -24

sign up link:

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/765f21fe-2661-4169-80b7-c0edce85a81e>

- HIGH SCHOOL ONLY - sign up link coming soon!
- Please contact Lynn Lear to get your name on the list!
- Open to all 9th - 12th graders (completed grade)
- Limited spots available!! Cost is \$325
- Deadline for sign up will be 2/24 and full payment due by 6/1
- Scholarship is due by 5/1 - please contact the church office

***** CHAPERONE NEEDED!! We are in need of a male chaperone for NYG! If you are interested, please contact Lynn Lear @ (210) 215-1410*****

Join our remind for text updates. Text @9k4ce9 to 81010



February Flowers

- February 2 - Wayne & Cynthia Graybill
- February 9 - Meredith Nyman
- February 16 - Scott & Jenna Collinsworth
- February 23 - Greg & Nancy Schlather

Breaking Bread

Breaking Bread groups are organized and underway. Because the groups are smaller, there's room for you to join! Do you enjoy good food, laughter, and connecting with others? The host home provides the main dish, others bring the rest; then hosting duties rotate to another member of the group. Easy and fun!!! Contact Dotty Collins at dotty@postofficerealty.com or leave a message on her cell (830) 708-5198.



Grandmas' Stocking Guild



Due to the efforts of many wonderful members of Grandmas' Stocking Guild and God's great blessings, we were able to make and distribute 850 personalized Christmas stockings to foster children in the Central Texas counties of Comal, Bexar, Hays, Austin, Kendall, Guadalupe, and Caldwell. We were also blessed with two large grants and several donations which will allow us to now go into the Austin and San Antonio areas to teach other groups to do what we do.

We want to thank everyone who helped at workshops and in December as we prepared the stockings to be distributed. To learn more about Grandmas' Stocking Guild, go to the website <http://www.grandmasstockingguild.org>.

Preschool Ministry

This month the preschoolers are making special valentine cards to send to deployed military units. The Bible verse for February is "Love each other as I have loved you." - John 15:12



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>

Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org
Pastor - Rev. Chip Reynolds - currently deployed until November 2020
Executive Director of Operations & Preschool - Michelle Rivera - michelle@nbstpaul.org
Communications Coordinator - Jennifer Burrows - jennifer@nbstpaul.org
Bookkeeper/Controller - Stacy Garcia - stacy@nbstpaul.org
Director of Music & Creative Arts - Jody Noblett - jody@nbstpaul.org
Maintenance Technician- Jason Crofford - jason@nbstpaul.org
F3 Ministry Manager - Kimberly Wunderlich - Kimberly@nbstpaul.org
Organist - Ann Brown - annb003@aol.com
Staff - Alison Setser - alison@nbstpaul.org
Staff - Jo Schomberg - jo@nbstpaul.org
Staff - Lorrie Cook - lorrie@nbstpaul.org
CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191
PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044
FAX (830) 620-7715

February 2020



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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