



Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

What does God say to Us as a Nation?

Some years ago I answered our home phone and on the other end was a calm, courteous fellow who asked me if I would take a few minutes to respond to some questions about our community. He explained that the results of the survey would help our community leaders plan for the future and make wise decisions. I believe in such efforts, and so I was glad to invest a few minutes on the phone with this fella. After basic demographic questions, he eventually asked me “**What do you believe is the greatest asset to our community?**” His multiple choice answers included: manufacturing, medical care, education, water recreation, and a couple more options. I smiled and told him, “Actually, my answer does not fit within your list, and it may surprise you.” He said “Sir, I’d like to hear it.” I said “Are you sure, it probably won’t fit the box?” He assured me he was interested, so I said, “Our greatest asset - and also our greatest liability - is our families - the families of our community. If our families are truly healthy, not just physically, then our community will be. If not...” We ended having a great conversation... and the survey fella thanked me for making his day and really helping him think.

As goes the family, so goes the community and the nation. We celebrate our nation’s birthday this month. A lot has happened and much has changed in 245 years. Long before our nation or any other nation came into being, God created the family as the **basic unit of society**, the first estate. God ordained the calling of husband and wife to be partners under him for procreation, the raising of children, and bearing the cross. It was through one particular family – Abraham and Sarah – that the Lord initiated his plan to bless all the families of the earth by getting his Word out to all. Eventually, God carried out the fullness of his plan by sending his Word in the flesh in Jesus Christ to save all families from sin, death, and the power of the Devil. You could say that in God’s plan the family is the “first church.” It is parents whom God names and calls to teach his plan, His Word to their children in order to bless our neighbor and glorify God. That’s what family is for. And God institutes congregations to support parents in their calling by making sure families have opportunity to hear God’s Word, be baptized, and receive His supper. Want a healthier nation? The Lord says that starts in your home... with his Word in your ears, hearts and lives.

Is there a dark age ahead? In her book, Dark Age Ahead, social analyst and urban planner Jane Jacobs warned that we are heading down the same path as Rome. The collapse of Rome was brought on by the collapse of strong families. Jacobs sees a lethal dynamic at work: “*The collapse of one sustaining cultural institution enfeebles others... With each collapse, still further ruin becomes more likely.*”¹ A sobering message. Our Lord’s message in scripture is clear: the kingdoms of this world rise and fall. As Christians, our Lord and Savior tells us: “*Do not grow weary or faint-hearted in your struggle against sin... we are now citizens of a kingdom not made with hands... a kingdom that cannot be shaken.*” (Hebrews 12).

Recently, two different dads asked me: “How do I get started in reading the Bible with my wife and kids, together?” God bless these men.

What is our nation’s greatest asset and liability? Your family.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Paul

¹ Cited by Cullen Murphy in Are We Rome, p.9. Mariner Books ©2007

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



David Doss, President

Change Brings Opportunity

We at St. Paul Lutheran have a new constitution! Praise God for giving us the direction. On Sunday June 27, the congregation voted to combine the Bylaws and Constitution into one document and restructure the Church Council. This initiative has been in consideration for years and has now come to fruition. St. Paul will be more effective and efficient. These are some exciting times.

The new structure will make it easier for all of us to serve the community and spread The Good News of Jesus Christ.

Now that we have more time to do God's work, we each must figure out what God's work looks like to each of us. 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." Here is a list of spiritual gifts:

Administration	Leadership
Discernment	Mercy
Evangelism	Missionary/Apostle
Exhortation	Pastor/Shepherding
Faith	Prophecy
Giving	Service
Helps	Teaching
Hospitality	Wisdom
Knowledge	

Some people know their spiritual gift, some people know what isn't their spiritual gift, and some are curious to know.

There are many tools out there that will help you discover yours. It's as easy as searching "Spiritual Gift Assessment" on the World Wide Web. Let's all do the research and run with the results!

The other big news is that Pastor Chip has been called to serve First English Lutheran in Victoria. He has been a blessing for us the past 6 years and I'm sure he'll be a blessing to the fine folks in Victoria also.

The Council will begin forming a call committee to search for a replacement. His will be big shoes to fill, but we all know that God will provide.



Chip Reynolds, Pastor

A New Call

The concept of "It takes a village to raise a child" resonates very strongly for me right now.

I have watched the church wrap its arms around so many people over time and lovingly hold them, allowing them to feel the love of God to either heal or grow or just be. It is an important function of who we are as the body of Christ.

It is interesting, though, to look back over the last few years and see where I have been the recipient of those moments.

Your ability to love and invest in my development as a pastor will pay dividends that you may never see. The dividends may be experienced by others. And God knows what those moments already look like. It is reminiscent of the parable of the sower. You sow seed and you don't worry how or where or why it does what it does. You simply allow God to take the work that you have done and let it grow where he needs it. He has a plan.

I am going to do my best to represent that work you have done in me in this new part of my journey. I pray that you will love me in and through this move knowing that I go to answer a call that you helped prepare me for. The ministry I am going to be doing will be reflective of St. Paul and my time spent here.

Thank you for your love and patience and time and patience and encouragement and patience. I beg for your continued prayers. I also pray that you know how much I love you and this congregation. If you make your way through Victoria, please stop and share a meal and some time. That will be the greatest gift you can give. You will always be precious to me and I will always carry a piece of you with me.

God bless y'all and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

July Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by:



Open - July 4
 Open - July 11
 Connie Bartow - July 18
 Daniel & Rachel Phife - July 25

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!

Caring Hands Ministry

Caring Hands Ministry is how our congregation cares for others. Below is a brief description of the ministries and the names of the leaders. If you are called to be a part of any of these ministries, please call Alison Setser in the church office at 830-625-9191.

Quilters – Meet every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief. (Meredith Nyman)

Prayer Blankets – Crochet prayer blankets for the sick in the comfort of your home. (Carol Schorn)

Bereavement Ministry – Meet as needed to provide receptions for funeral/memorial services. (Emily Harborth)

Hospital Visitors Ministry – Visit and provide communion to members in the hospital. (Nancy Giese)

Prayer Ministry – Pray for the sick weekly through prayer requests. (Alison Setser)

Friday Morning Prayer Group – Gather together and pray every Friday. (Vi Randow)

Kitchen Angels – Provide meals as needed for those discharged from the hospital. (Roxy Duelm)



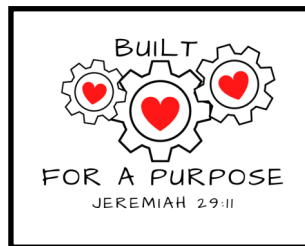
Are you a coffee drinker?.....Then we could use your help. St. Paul has seen an increase in attendance; therefore, an increase in coffee consumption. We are looking for more volunteers to help with this ministry. It requires about 30 minutes of your time for set-up on Saturday or early Sunday morning, and about 30 minutes for clean-up. The goal is to have enough teams to rotate the schedule every 6-10 weeks. If you are looking for a way to get involved, here is your opportunity. For more information, please contact Cindy at corsaki@satxrr.com or call Alison in the church office at 830-625-9191.

Next Women's Retreat....Save the Date

Sunday, August 15
 4-6:00 p.m.

The theme is "Joy". Please plan to join us for a "Joy" filled time with one another. *Simply Blessed* will sing; there will be food, child care and, of course, fellowship. More information to come.

***Community Bible Camp
 at Slumber Falls***



July 26-28
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 1st-5th grade
 \$50 registration fee

Register on the church app or at www.nbstpaul.org.

Men's Roundup



July 13
 6:00 p.m.
 Krause's Café

Retired Lt. General
 Chris Nowland, Guest Speaker

Tickets available:
www.mensroundup.org

July 2021

Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org
Pastor - Rev. Chip Reynolds - pastorchip@nbstpaul.org
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
F3 Ministry Manager - Kimberly Wunderlich - kimberly@nbstpaul.org
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CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191
PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044
FAX (830) 620-7715



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 and Face Book.



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