



January 2018

The Epistle

Paul Owens, Senior Pastor



Ending and Beginning... in Prayer

When the three years of his earthly ministry were ending and the three days of his passion were beginning, Jesus went to his knees in prayer... calling on and yielding to his – and our – Father in heaven. If prayer is how Jesus ended one thing and began the next, there is the path for us as 2017 ends and 2018 begins. Indeed, all 365 days of each year are best begun and ended when we engage in conversation with our heavenly Father – speaking to him... and listening to him twice as much as we speak. It's why he gave us two ears and one mouth.

If we are to rise up as the church, the place to begin is on our knees. So, on Sunday, December 31, Monday, January 1, and Tuesday, January 3, the council and I and our staff ask you to join us in **Three Days of Prayer**. Pastor Chip's message on December 31 will speak to this. If you attended Christmas Eve service, you received a Three Days of Prayer booklet to help guide our praying together. You can also download one [here](#). Together with several hundred congregations from our LCMC association (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) across America and the globe will be praying for **repentance**, asking God to hear our **petitions**, and guiding us toward our **vision**.

As 2017 ends and 2018 begins, there are two particular aspects of our life together on which I ask you to pray. First, pray for your family and for your role in it. Ask the Lord to have free reign in your household and to make y'all hungry for his word. Especially if you happen to be a father, it is your calling to love and lead your family in prayer and daily reading of scripture. We all fail at this; so fess up... and hear this promise as from Christ himself: you are forgiven☺. Have fun reading the Word and praying together; don't make a chore out of it... but let it be your happy duty to call on the Lord **a lot**... several times a day. He loves it when you ask☺. If you need a place to start, try: the Small Catechism, Egermeier's Bible Story Book, or the Gospel of Mark. If you need help, just ask☺.

Secondly, please pray for our congregational leaders... because the hope of the world is not a government nor a party; the hope of the world is the local congregation working rightly. So pray for those already serving in leadership positions (council, boards, small group leaders, staff)... and pray for our nominating committee – led by Linda Schlather. I and the committee ask you to pray for the Lord to raise up leaders who are spiritually mature and committed not to their own agendas, but to our mission, vision and priorities. For more specifics on our leadership needs, please contact Linda or any member of the nominating committee: Karen Krieg, M'Lissa Steel, Stewart Wirebaugh, Harvey Haas, Rod Mueller.

Here's to ending and beginning in the best way possible: on our knees in prayer.

On my knees with you,

Pastor Paul



January Flowers

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

Open
Thor & Alicia Kooda
Susan Kanz
Open



Our Sympathy to

Barbara Johnson on the death of her mother, Clara Poehl.

The family and friends of Jan Lee.

The family and friends of Adeline Wohlfhart.

The family and friends of Gloria Ramsey.

Gail and Dorisse Krueger on the death of their brother and son, Rusty Krueger.



Thank You Congregation

From Youth and Family Board

The Youth and Family Board wants to thank everyone for their support of the service projects held in November and December.

November – Community Thanksgiving Dinner – This service project was held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at Tree of Life church. Thank you to the congregation and the youth for your support of this project. We had a tremendous number of volunteers present and were able to debone 95 of the 110 turkeys and wrapped all of the rolls and silverware. We also assembled boxes for the take-out orders. Our younger volunteers (Sunday school, Preschool and CLIMB members) decorated 500 placemats for use as well. Thank you to everyone for your help; it was very successful.



January 2018

2018 St. Paul Wild Game Dinner – It is almost here!

The 14th annual Wild Game Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 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**, live and silent auctions, a drawing featuring a custom built rifle, and a dance featuring live music by local country artist, Bret Graham. The 2018 event will include a kids zone for additional family fun.

What Happens to the Proceeds: The 2018 benefactors are:

Youth Ministry – supports youth programs, including summer camps, mission trips, VBS and more

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

Texas Outdoor C.H.I.L.D. - provides hunting, fishing and outdoor adventures to youngsters between 8 and 20 years old that have experienced a life altering medical incident

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 2018 event. It is a great way to meet other members of St. Paul and is a tremendous amount of fun. There will be planning meetings on January 7th and January 21st immediately after the 10:30 service. For question you can contact the church office, a committee member, or Lance 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



The Report Card - Annie Gonzalez - Program Director

"Bright Star, Bright Star"



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:8-14



JANUARY YOUTH CALENDAR

Wed. Jan. 3	NO EVENT
Wed. Jan. 10	6:00pm – open gym for all 6 th -12 th grade youth (optional) 6:30pm – ARK event – 6 th -12 th grade 8:00pm – dismissal
Wed. Jan. 17	6:00pm – open gym for all 6 th -12 th grade youth (optional) 6:30pm – ARK event - 6 th -12 th grade 8:00pm – dismissal
Wed. Jan. 24	6:00pm – open gym for all 6 th -12 th grade youth (optional) 6:30pm – ARK event - 6 th -11 th grade 6:30pm – 12 th grade youth AND parents 2 nd lesson in Graduate Stepping Stone 8:00pm – dismissal
Wed. Jan. 31	6:00pm – open gym for all 6 th -12 th grade youth (optional) 6:30pm – ARK event – Bingo at Kirkwood – 6 th -12 th grade 8:00pm - dismissal

SAVE THE DATE

Graduate Blessing Stepping Stones – For all current high school seniors AND parents. Please join us on the following dates for the 2nd and 3rd lessons:

Wed. Jan. 24 – 6:30-7:30pm at church – room 213

Wed. May 2 – 6:30-7:30pm – location to be determined

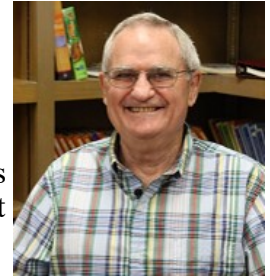


Camp Eagle 2018 – June 17-22, 2018 - for all current 6th-12th grade students. Monthly payments as low as \$50.00 are being accepted now in the church office. Make checks payable to SPLC and in the memo notate “Camp Eagle 2018 – child’s name “. Each camper pays \$255.00 out of the \$420.00 registration fee. Total amount of \$255.00 is due by June 1, 2018.

Youth Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa – July 16-21, 2018 - for all current 9th – 12th grade youth. Space is limited, so reserve your space now by making monthly payments as low as \$50.00. Each attendee is responsible for \$300.00 out of \$520.00 registration fee. Make checks payable to SPLC and in memo notate “Yth Gathering 2018 – child’s name.” Total amount of \$300.00 is due by July 1, 2018.



John Magness, Congregational President



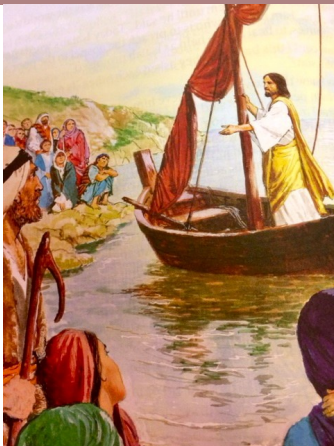
From the President

"... a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." So records St. Luke in 2:32. Simeon believed God that he would send the promised Messiah and that is what God did. Or as the hymn says: "Rejoice!... Our salvation is complete. ... Rejoice, believers, our Lord has come."

In December we celebrated Christ's birth in several ways and I hope you took advantage of them. Preparatory sermons started getting us ready. Thank you, pastors. Then we had "modeled" Wednesday evening worship. Thank you, puppets, for your getting us started. The caroling and praying in the neighborhood capped off our Wednesday evening worship. Thank you, St. Paul congregants. Our younger folks gave us a wonderful presentation telling the story of the birth of Jesus. Thank you, young folks. We sang Christmas carols and read scripture at St. Martin. Thank you, St. Martin Committee. And the Preschool gave us wonderful drama and Christmas carol singing. Thank you, Preschool

Pray that in 2018 we remember and celebrate: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) Pray that we share the wonderful grace and truth that God has given us.

2017 has been a great year. Let us share Jesus even more in 2018. I pray God's peace and blessing for all.



**Puppet Message
Jan 21, 2018**

Mark 1:17 "Follow me and I will make you Fishers of Men."

Save the date!!

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **June 25-29, 2018**. Come venture with us as we go to an uncharted island where kids will survive and thrive with Jesus. Kids will learn that Jesus will carry them through all of life's storms. This fun filled week will be amazing. **Please keep an eye out for registration dates and opportunities to volunteer.** Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus will be a week to remember!!

SHIPWRECKED

RESCUED BY JESUS



New Breaking Bread groups are forming in January!!!!

Here's how it works: We'll start again in January with host homes (we'll define the groups) offering the main dish and guests (+ children) bringing side dishes to break bread together. For approximately an hour and a half, we do two of our favorite things--eating and talking--to get better acquainted. We'll continue to meet in February, March, April and May with the same group; then take off June and July. In August, we'll regroup and start again to go through December. 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!

Get better acquainted with your fellow treasures in earthly vessels. Look for handouts in late December and early January to sign up for the fun or contact Dotty Collins at 830-629-5129, Dotty@postofficerealty.com or call the church office 830-625-9191. Breaking Bread wants you!

January 2018 Service Calendar

		Sun., Jan. 7	Sun., Jan. 14	Sun., Jan. 21	Sun., Jan. 28
Altar Guild Vicki Hollmig		Sandra Pfluger & Kathy Quade			
Lay Minister Fred Terry		BJ Hageman	Rodger Johnson	Chris Markulin	Paul Finley
Scripture Readers Leslie Wellbrock	8:00	Morgan Garcia	Nathan Bostick	Susan Montgomery	Kathy Quade
	10:30	Karen Mims	Pat Quade	Corey Burger	Kay Magness
Ushers Ed Berich	8:00	Team 5 Kevin Dornbusch	Team 5 Kevin Dornbusch	Team 7 Wayne Graybill	Team 7 Wayne Graybill
	10:30	Team 6 Paul Finley	Team 6 Paul Finley	Team 8 Melvin Pankau	Team 8 Melvin Pankau
Acolytes signupgenius	8:00				
	10:30	Beck Hudson	Sierra Schwab		
Audio Tech Greg Schlather	8:00 & 10:30	Mark Sohn	Paul Luckemeyer	David Wagner	James Walls
Visual Tech Greg Schlather	8:00	Greg Schlather	Lorrie Cook	Greg Schlather	Joe Clayburne
	10:30	Rodger Johnson			
Communion Preparers Lydia Baese	8:00	Erna Dietert & Karen Woody		Sandra Pfluger & Gail Krueger	
	10:30	Malcolm & Ola Fischer		Stewart & Kristee Wirebaugh	
Communion Servers Lydia Baese	8:00	Nancy Becker & Fred Terry		Jenna Kieke & Minnie Altum	
	10:30	Benno & Jan Engel		Larry & Sue Schwab	
Greeters Nancy Becker	8:00	Karen & Mary Ann Woody	Carolyn & Mackenzey Zunker	Harvey & Erna Haas	Craig & Vicki Hollmig
	10:30	Paul & Georgia Tadlock	Brian & Betty Taylor	Brad & Carol Thompson	Jeff & Virgie VanKleef
Friendly Visitors Carolyn Zunker		Carolyn Zunker		Fred Terry	
Coffee Crew Carolyn Zunker		Harvey & Erna Haas Janice Vader	Glenn & Leslie Wellbrock	Danny & Carolyn Zunker	George & Letty Gracia
Pew Pals Tracy Granado		Willa Faulkner Team	Dina Dornburg	Dale & Julie Goos	The Granado's & Kelly King
Hospital Visitors Nancy Becker		Glenn Wellbrock	Kay Magness	Dotty Collins & Kathy Lamon	Nancy Becker

Sundays

8:00am Traditional Service
9:15am Sunday School
9:30am Covenant Choir
10:30am Informal Service

January 2018

Wednesday Family Night

6:00pm Open Gym - 6th grade & up
6:00pm CLIMB
6:30pm Youth ARK & small group
6:30pm Men's Bible Study
6:30pm Women's Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year Office Closed	2 9:00am Quilters 6:30pm TNT's	3 7:30am Mastercraftsmen 11:00am Staff	4 1:00pm Bridge 7:00pm Congregational Life Bd	5 7:00am Prayer Group	6
7 COMMUNION ***See Above***	8 5:00pm Personnel Bd 6:30pm Youth & Family Bd	9 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Mah Jongg 4:00pm Executive Com 6:30pm TNT's 6:30pm Property Bd	10 11:00am Staff Family Night **See Above** 7:00pm Choir	11 2:00pm Our Place Café 7:00pm Evangelism Bd	12 7:00am Prayer Group 5:00pm Eat Out Friends	13 8:00am LCMC Texas District
14 ***See Above***	15 7:00pm Council Meeting	16 9:00am Quilters 6:30pm TNT's	17 11:00am Staff 3:00pm Eden Home Devo Family Night **See Above** 7:00pm Choir	18 10:00am Crocheters 1:00pm Bridge 6:00pm SPICE	19 7:00am Prayer Group	20 9:00am Winter Leader- ship Retreat
21 COMMUNION ***See Above*** 9:15 New Disciple Class	22	23 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Mah Jongg 5:30pm Worship Bd 6:30pm TNT's 7:00pm Stewardship Bd	24 11:00am Staff 3:00pm Kirkwood Devo 5:00pm Christian Ed Bd Family Night **See Above** 6:30pm Graduate Blessing	25	26 7:00am Prayer Group	27 6:00pm Domino Friends
28 ***See Above*** 9:15 New Disciple Class	29	30 9:00am Quilters 6:30pm TNT's	31 11:00am Staff Family Night **See Above** 7:00pm Choir			



Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



The Gifts We Bring

Gift giving can be difficult at times. Let's face it: some people are hard to shop for! But have you ever stopped to wonder why gift-giving is important? What's a gift really about anyway? Giving gifts to friends and family is an ancient ritual of nearly every known human culture. Gifts signify a relationship (or the desire for one) and are meant to delight, honor, and/or surprise the recipient. In our attempt to do just that we seek to give a gift that is an expression of that loving relationship, but it often gets deduced down to giving the gift that a person either wants or needs but does not already have.

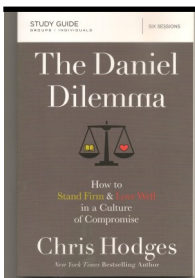
So what do we give Jesus, the King of kings? On Epiphany, we are fondly reminded of the story when magi journeyed from afar to worship the newborn King Jesus bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Now these were extraordinary gifts to be given to a child. But what should we give Jesus, today? What does Jesus need or want that he doesn't already have? What would bring him delight, honor, or surprise? And what do I really have to offer? In honor of the magi, I'd like to propose three gift-giving suggestions:

First of all, give Jesus yourself. Take time to be with him, commune with him, worship him, and walk with him. In the busy-ness of our day-to-day lives we can be neglectful of our relationship with Jesus. Remember above all else, Jesus desires to be in relationship with you and with me.

Secondly, give Jesus the very best of what he's given you. God has uniquely created you with interests and talents and abilities. In this Epiphany season, remember how Jesus is calling you to use what he's given you to give Jesus honor. Ask God for guidance of how you can serve him with the gifts he's already given you.

Finally, give Jesus the introduction to a friend. Just as Jesus desires to be in a relationship with you, he desires to have that with all of people. Take time to introduce Jesus to a friend. Do all your friends already know Jesus? Then it is time to make some new friends with people who don't! Pray for God to guide you every step of the way and watch with awe and wonder as the Holy Spirit creates faith in the heart of your friend.

In this season of Epiphany we are reminded of the privilege we have to delight, honor, and surprise Jesus with our gifts. Let's cherish every gift-giving opportunity and live our lives to the honor and glory of God, giving thanks for his goodness and mercy!



The Wednesday evening Women's Study group will begin a new study on January 10, 2018. The Study is entitled "The Daniel Dilemma" on how to "Stand Firm & Love Well in a Culture Of Compromise".

Contact Ola Fischer at mnofischer@sbcglobal.net, or call her at 210 215-9460 if you would like more information and wish to purchase the book and study guide.

We would love for you to join us.

Ola Fischer

New Discipleship Class

Beginning January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2018. Those who wish, officially join the congregation February 25, 2018 at the 10:30 service. This course focuses on what we believe & teach, on our heritage & history, on prayer, and on opportunities to connect and grow. Please bring your questions, as this is an opportunity for you to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith, and our congregation! The course is our "New Member" course taught by Pastor Paul Owens and lay leaders at 9:15am Sunday mornings.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up please call 830-625-9191 or email Carolyn@nbstpaul.org.



January 2018

Board Reports

Board of Christian Ed - Sue Schwab - 830-237-0749

- Advent- Dec.6th, 13th, & 20th, CLIMB will meet the first two Wed. nights. Christmas bags for all the children will be put together on Dec. 13th after the service and will be passed out after the 10:30 service & Christmas program. Ola will provide the Happy Birthday Jesus cake for the Pot Luck meal. Pastor Chip is working on the program and will let us know about the practices.
- The Wed. Night programs will begin again on January 10th .
- The board discussed changing our board name. After the changing of the Continuing Resolutions of our board, Youth & Family Board, and Congregational Life Board; Christian Ed Board no longer identified us. We approved to start the process of changing the board's name to Children's Ministry Board. This will need a constitutional change.

Our next Meeting will be on January 24th at 5:00

Board of Congregational Life - Stephen Stehling - 830-387-4904

Did not meet in December.

Board of Evangelism - Tex Brown - 210-651-1939

The Board of Evangelism did not meet in December 2017.

Board of Personnel- Chip Franck - 830-214-0366

The Personnel Board continues to research risk management issues – especially preparations for serious emergencies. Also on the near-term agenda are support for reformulating job descriptions, and some specific personnel matters. Future business still includes revision of the Employee Handbook.

Board of Preschool - Nancy Schlather - 830-609-8344

The preschool board did not meet this month due to the holiday season. We will start again in January.

Board of Property- Danny Zunker - 830-312-1770

Did not meet in December.

Board of Stewardship – Brad Campbell - 830-708-6458

Discussion: ratified email votes regarding special gift categories for biblical stewardship and kitchen upgrade; discussed budget and remaining funds available for this fiscal year; voted to provide additional funds to First Lutheran Tivoli and Our Savior Lutheran Victoria for Hurricane Harvey relief.

Board of Youth and Family - Alison Setser - 210-722-8065

Discussed the following items at the Dec. Board meeting:

- Recap of all November events to include the Community Thanksgiving Dinner and the Camp-style experience at the Kreusler residence.
- Discussed all Dec. events to include all Wed. night ARK events and Christmas parties for the youth.
- Discussed and recorded all details associated with Camp Eagle 2018 and the Youth Gathering in 2018.
- Jan – May 2018 calendar – handed out and discussed.

Board of Public Relations - Roxanne Ware - 830-643-9722

Discussed the following:

- Radio station ads & contacts
- Newspaper ads & contacts
- Wild Game Dinner publicity
- How to advertise & promote "Our Place Memory Café"
- 2018 Budget

Board of Worship – Rod Mueller -

We videotape and photograph during worship services and church events. These images may be released online, in video or photo format, or used in publications. If anyone should object, please call the church office at 830-625-9191.



ST. PAUL SIMPLY NUMBERS

NOVEMBER Actual Income and Expenses by Board

Description	2017 Actual NOVEMBER	2017 Actual YTD	Over/(Under) Budget
Administrative and Office	\$3,764.50	\$27,380.21	(\$10,164.79)
Christian Education	\$613.11	\$6,255.48	(\$1,264.52)
Congregational Life	\$2,237.69	\$11,751.64	(\$2,248.36)
Evangelism	\$1.00	\$775.20	(\$1,224.80)
Finance Committee	\$7,583.33	\$83,416.63	(\$7,583.37)
Personnel	\$38,450.11	\$431,579.89	(\$55,259.11)
Preschool (expenses only - see income below)	\$45,420.69	\$478,491.65	(\$21,656.82)
Property	\$10,041.55	\$91,130.79	(\$12,869.21)
Public Relations	\$99.00	\$3,525.95	(\$474.05)
Stewardship	\$9,268.77	\$75,660.60	(\$14,041.40)
Worship	\$829.62	\$13,805.47	(\$194.53)
Youth & Family	\$168.86	\$5,777.40	(\$4,636.60)
SPENDING TOTALS	\$118,478.23	\$1,229,550.91	(\$131,617.56)

November 30, 2017

CASH BANK BALANCE

\$359,000

2017 Contribution Statements

will be available in the Lobby
between services

January 21

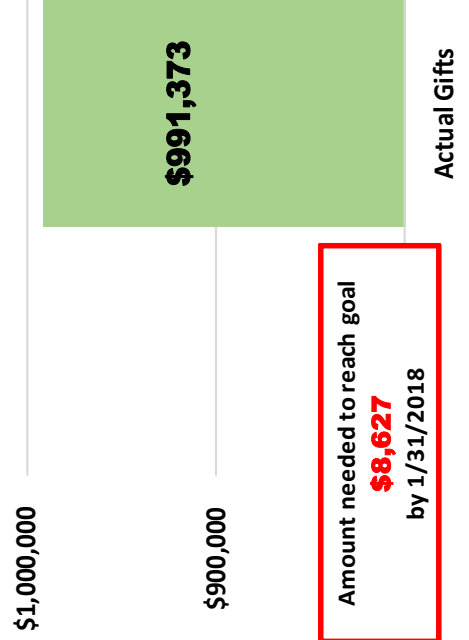
&

January 28

**Statements not picked up will be mailed
January 30.**

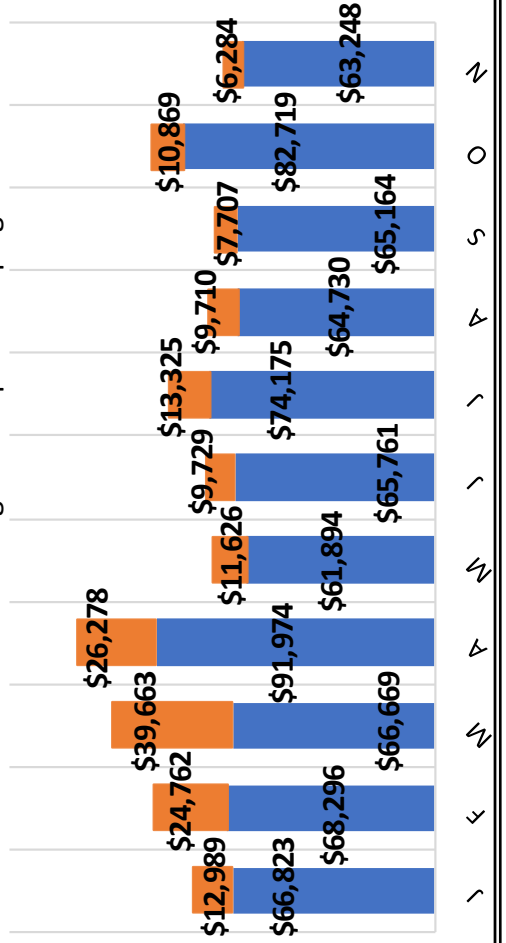
Capital Camp./Building Fund

April 2014 - Nov. 2017



2017

■ General Offerings ■ Capital Campaign



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

Administrative Assistant - Carolyn Zunker - carolyn@nbstpaul.org

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

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

Program Director of Preschool - Annie Gonzalez - annie@nbstpaul.org

Maintenance - Jason Crofford - jason@nbstpaul.org

Organist - Ann Brown

CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191

PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044

FAX (830) 620-7715

www.nbstpaul.org



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



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MEMBER LCMC

