



Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

Starting the year rightly....

You and I live in this world with Christ as our Lord and Champion. Until He returns or we die, this life is a battle between God and Satan... and our lives are the torn up turf of the battlefield. We have no reason to fear or shrink and every reason to confidently call on our Lord in prayer. I invite you therefore to begin 2020 in three days of prayer - January 5, 6, and 7, with me, calling on our gracious Heavenly Father.

The first day is focused on **repentance**. We so often try to make our lives, our relationships—and even the church—with our own hands, in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. So, we lay down our pride, our sin and our agenda and ask the Lord of the church for forgiveness, which He gives freely and with mercy.

January 6 is a day of **petition**. The apostle Paul encourages us: “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people...” (I Timothy 2:1). So, we pray for our congregation, for our pastors, for our leaders, and for the new leaders we will need; for those who carry out ministries, for marriages and parents, for Financial Peace University courses, for the Sunday School teachers, for the Confirmation leaders, for those leading adult Bible studies and for those leading small groups. Pray for those in hospital and nursing home ministries. Pray for our preschool. Pray for relationships through Breaking Bread. Pray for our missionaries, local and global. Pray for all those connected to our church that they might know God’s redeeming love for all in Christ.

Our **vision** is to be a congregation that **engages people in order to help more families follow Jesus**. On this third day, pray that the Holy Spirit will again move through the hearts and minds of our leaders, our pastors and each of us to fulfill this vision.

If we as the church are to rise up, the best way to start the year and every day of it, is down on our knees!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Paul

A Big Thank You!

Thank you, danke schon, merci, arigato, gracias, grazie, mansi , manx, dekuji, tak.....The Congregational Life Board wants you to know **you are appreciated!**

Thank you to everyone who in some way contributed to church and community this year, and especially this past month of December that was crazy busy! It took lots of hands and feet to get so much accomplished.....as a church, we provided gifts to children, who otherwise may not have received any during Christmas, showed appreciation to our local police and fire departments, had many volunteers that decorated, cooked, baked, served, cleaned, and so much more!

Isn't it wonderful to be part of a congregation that has such a heart for people and our community? What a way to show your love for Christ and each other.

Happy 2020!
The Congregational Life Board

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



Chip Reynolds, Pastor

Greetings,

So, it seems like forever since I was in New Braunfels, but we have only been here at our final destination for about a week. Everything is marching toward settling into a normal rhythm and will get there when the group before finally returns home. To give you an idea of the area, imagine a large desert (red dirt and little vegetation) with a military facility dropped in the middle of it. At times it feels like M.A.S.H. 4077 in the middle of the desert with concrete walls and razor wire. (Some of you will have to GOOGLE that reference, but not all of you. I guess that makes me Father Mulcahy.)

I get the privilege of serving a lot of people here at our camp and they are so very grateful when they are feeling cut off and lonely and even somewhat bored. With the limited number of things to do here, I am probably going to run into that much more than I would like. I am going to try to beat it back with fun stuff like football and volleyball tournaments and educational stuff. I am actually going to do a half marriage retreat with the spouse that I have here, a military version of Financial Peace, and language classes. Less down time, less trouble.

I have had more time to be in Scripture and time for reflection. But it never fails I came to a realization in my favorite thinking place on about day 3...the shower. See the showers here are in a building about 50 yards from my room. So, I have to walk outside, across a gravel and sand road to a "railroad car" converted into a shower. Now, mind you, it has AC that sort of works and a large hot-water heater that works better than the AC so it is not all bad. So, I got into the shower and I pushed the button that starts the water that runs for like 30 seconds (like the shower stations at the beach.) So, a typical shower takes about 5 or 6 pushes of the button to finish. I caught myself getting irritated at the cumbersome process and then I stopped....I realized just how first world my thinking had already gotten on day 3.

So, I guess that would be my desire for your prayer.... keep me centered and focused on how good I really do have it. Keep me aware that all my problems are really petty compared to those that have so much less than me in so many ways. Let me focus on the stuff that really matters and the needs of those around me that I have been called to serve. Thanks in advance for all the prayers you send my way (and any stuff as well...yes, a shameless plug.) Love and prayers. PC



Wild Game Dinner 2020

A little less than a month away! Now is your time to get involved! The 16th 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
garth.bielke@minigrip.com

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

MayaWorks

Thank you for your support of MayaWorks! Your purchases greatly impact the lives of the artisans, their families, and their communities. Sales support economic justice for women in Guatemala and promote fair trade and education. May God bless you for your generosity! - Gail Krueger

St Paul Youth News

January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! - no events
 January 8 - 6-8:00 p.m.- Open Gym
 January 15 - 6-8:00 p.m. - BINGO @ Kirkwood
 (meet at church at 6:00 p.m.)
 January 22 - 6-8:00 p.m. - ARK event
 January 29 - 6-8:00 p.m. - ARK event

January Flowers



January 5 - TBD
 January 12 - TBD
 January 19 - TBD
 January 26 - TBD

New Pew Cushions

We are excited to share with the Congregation new Sanctuary pew cushions that were funded by generous memorial donations and chosen by a congregational design team. We were fortunate to receive them prior to our Christmas Eve services.



Breaking Bread

A new year, new traditions to establish! Breaking Bread is a great one to incorporate. New groups are now forming, so you're just in time to join the fun.

In the event that you've not heard about it, we gather in groups of six which allows the group to invite someone unchurched or not participating in church functions. The host home provides the main dish and drinks, while the other members provide sides and dessert. Some meet in homes, some in restaurants (as pictured with this article), and some in parks. It matters not how formal or informal, how impressive or cozy; what matters is the friendship that develops over an intimate table. Try it, you'll like it!



Contact Dotty Collins 830-708-5198 or Dotty@postofficerealty.com. We'd like to form groups no later than the second week in January. Don't delay, act today!!!

Preschool Ministry

It is more blessed to give than to receive. - Acts 20:35

The preschool was able to purchase Christmas gifts for seven children from the angel tree. Gifts were purchased with the weekly chapel offerings.



Bible Study for Women

The Wednesday evening Bible study for women will resume on January 8 at 6:15 p.m. Room number to be determined based on enrollment. The books are \$16.23 each. We have 12 and can order additional as needed. Please contact Ola Fischer by text (210) 215-9460, if you wish to attend. The study will be *Stepping Up* by Beth Moore. This is a six-week study based on a journey through the Psalms of Ascent.



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

I would like to thank all of you for the prayers and love you blessed me and my family with as well as the beautiful cards, phone calls, and meals. My mama was a beautiful, gentle lady who loved the Lord. She will be missed greatly, but we know who has her in His arms.

Love and peace to you all,

Emily Harborth and Family

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
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January 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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NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

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