

Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

The Green Pasture of God's Word



When beef cattle feed on alfalfa, they quickly bloat, and without remedy, they die. Jesus refers to you and me as his sheep much more often than he refers to us as cattle, but the Devil and the world still want us bloating on the wrong diet: self-will, blaming, and pop culture. Luther said this: *"wherever the green pasture of God's word is rejected, there neither happiness nor salvation can be found, neither strength nor comfort of body or soul, but only dis-sension, fear, and terror, especially when sorrow, anxiety, and death threaten."* (Luther's Works, American Edition, volume 12, p.149) Instead of a constant diet of your busy, inverted desires, the Good Shepherd has a *green pasture* in mind for you.

For my friends Matt and Michelle their family goes to pasture in the morning around the breakfast table. There they feast on God's word, talk with each other, and pray. The Shepherd pours out his life-giving word for them at other times in the day as well. For Sandi and me, we each go quietly to that green pasture in the morning. Like the woman of Proverbs, she rises early, early to be nourished in the word. When she leaves for school then I am sitting down for my morning time in the pasture. Then in the evening after supper we go to the pasture together. It is life-giving for me to talk with Sandi while we enjoy our evening meal and then have our Bible reading together. Currently, we are reading the Psalms, one each evening, unless it's a really long one like Psalm 119 and then we break into parts.

Thank you, Good Shepherd, for ushering us into the green pasture of your word in our ears. Fed by you, we shall not want... and we fear no evil... and we lie down in peace. Thank you Jesus, amen.

David Doss, President

What's up in May?



The month of May will bring opportunities for all of us to discover what the changes in St. Paul Lutheran Council and Constitution entail. Please reach out to any and/or all Council members with any questions you may have. If you're not sure who all is on Council, please go to the St. Paul website and click on the Leadership tab. Also, please take advantage of the informational meetings that will be taking place. We will do our very best to make sure there is complete transparency and information is readily available.

If you're looking for contact information or a directory there is an App that you can access through your smart phone. It's **Ministry One**. The icon is a purple cross. This is a great tool to access contact information. Other ways to find contact information is by using the old hard copy church directories, and if all else fails, call the church office at 830-625-9191.

This is an exciting time for our church. The goal of the new structure is to make it easier for the congregation of St. Paul to serve our community and to bring more people to Christ. The Bible tells us to go out and make disciples and to be good stewards of our resources. I believe you'll quickly see how the new Constitution and structure will help us with our Christian calling.

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



My knees are killing me this morning. They usually are on Monday morning after playing three hours of basketball on Sunday night with a bunch of 20-somethings. I'm not a young pup anymore. And my jump shot is not what it used to be. But I love the exercise and more than anything, I love the ministry.

Ministry?

You are just playing basketball. How is that ministry?

Ministry happens right in the middle of our lives. It happens where we are, when we are in tune with what God wants us to do. Sharing God's love, building whole relationships (authentic relationships) where people get to see Jesus in us.

So, how does that look in the world that we live in today? Honestly, that looks different for each of us because we are all planted in different ways. The opportunity to play with these guys happened because one of our college students was planted firmly in the middle of this group and they needed a place to play. God works us right into their lives because we already have a relationship with them.

So, now what?

Where are you planted? That is the first question that you must answer. To whom are you called to be in ministry? We so often think that we are obligated to go out and find people to love and serve. That is often not the case. The people we can have the most profound impact on are already in our lives. We must simply be aware that they are right in front of us and probably in need.

SO, find those people to love. Find those people to minister to by being in authentic relationship with them. Let the light of Christ shine through you to them.

Wednesday Family Dinners



May 5 - pizza, fresh fruit, veggies with ranch dressing, brownies

May 12 - chicken spaghetti, ambrosia salad, peas and carrots, rolls/bread, cookies

May 19 - sloppy joe sandwiches, banana, raw veggies with ranch dressing, chips, ice cream

May 26 - beef lasagna, tossed salad, green beans, garlic bread, brownies

Reminder: Family Dinners on Wednesdays will end in May. They will resume in the Fall. Have a wonderful summer!

Grandmas Stocking Guild

Grandmas Stocking Guild will be having Workshops this year and we could really use your help. Even with the COVID-19 pandemic last year our group was able to provide 988 handmade stockings to Foster Children all over Central Texas.

We will be doing a workshop at St. Paul on Thursday, June 10 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Enjoy some Christian Fellowship with our group as we work on our 13th year of service helping foster children in Texas. If you would like to pick up stockings and embellish them at home and then return them to the church that would also be much appreciated. We need your help and there are several ways you can lend a hand.

We have another workshop scheduled for Thursday, August 12 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at St. Paul.

To find our more information, go to our website at www.grandmasstockingguild.org or contact Joyce Ericson (916) 278-8810 or Suzi Casey at (830)708-3621.



May Altar Flowers

May 2 - Open
 May 9 - Sam & Patsy Wotipka
 May 16 - Graduates
 May 23 - Open
 May 30 - Byron & Alison Setser

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!

College Graduate Recognition



We would love to recognize the success of our college students that graduated Fall 2020, or will be graduating in Spring/Summer 2021. Please send student name, college/university/trade school attended, degree received and future plans to Kimberly Wunderlich at kimberly@nbstpaul.org by May 7th.

Men's Roundup



May 11
 6-9:00 pm
 Krause's Cafe

Lathan Watts is the Public Affairs director for First Liberty Institute. First Liberty is the leading law firm to fight for civil rights and religious freedom issues before the US Supreme Court. Lathan has his Doctorate of Juris Prudence from University of Mississippi. Previous to First Liberty, Lathan served as a staffer for US Congressman Jeb Hanserling, US Senator John Cornyn and Texas Governor Rick Perry. He also served four years as a City Councilman for Lewisville, TX. He will tell his story as well as update us on cases going to the US Supreme Court. Purchase tickets (\$20) at www.krausescafe.com.

Fellowship starts at 6:00 pm followed by dinner and the featured speaker, Lathan Watts.



Happy Mother's Day
 Sunday, May 9



Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
 Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST
 WORKERS

It has been a long time since we have gathered in person as a District and I am very excited about our upcoming LCMC Texas District and Youth Gatherings to be held July 30-31 at Our Saviour in Victoria, Texas! If you have never been to a Gathering before, then I personally invite you to come this summer for a time of worship, encouragement, inspiration, education, and fellowship. It is not just an event for pastors or church leaders. Our Gathering is intended to equip and encourage every follower of Jesus to live in mission and multiply disciples and churches!

Our theme this year is SHINE, based on Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." We have a great lineup of keynote speakers including David Drum of J17 Ministries from Tucson, Arizona; Rick and Robyn Bezanson of Amazing Grace Christian Church in Glendale, Arizona; and Ted Doering of Narrative Church in Round Rock, Texas. Enrique Estrada from Monterrey, Mexico and I will be preaching at our two worship services. Each participant can choose to attend three different breakouts from 15 different presenters. And come early if you choose to attend either the Women's or Leadership Pre-Gathering Seminars.



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May 2021



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, Face Book and YouTube.



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