



Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

The Important Election

The most important job in the country is not located in the White House but in your house. It is not President, but husband, wife... father, mother. Regardless of how the November presidential election turns out, far more important is that God has elected you for those roles, those vocations. Long, long before he instituted the nation, the Lord put in place marriage and the family... his first weapon in the battle array against Satan. The down to earth, domestic, ordinary callings of husband, wife, father, mother are the primary tools God uses to pass along faith in Jesus Christ. Whether your children and your spouse will trust Christ as their Lord, depends much more on this divine election and you delivering the Word of Christ for

them than on either candidate for president and his promise to deliver.

A journalist, sportswriter, former college athlete wrote recently:

“Nearly 30 years ago, in a 1993 Nike commercial, professional basketball legend Charles Barkley fired the first shot at the “role model” concept popularized by Columbia University sociologist Robert K Merton, in the aftermath of the 1960s counterculture movement. “I am not a role model,” Barkley proclaimed in the half-minute spot. “I am not paid to be a role model. I am paid to wreak havoc on the basketball court. Parents should be role models. Just because I can dunk a basketball doesn’t mean I should raise your kids.”

The writer continues: “Of the many phrases and concepts Merton coined, “role model” has had the most impact. On the surface, the argument that young people tend to model their behavior after high profile, successful adults is harmless. However, in retrospect, the elevation of athletes and other celebrities as primary figures in the formation of behavioral norms for young people helped create the conditions that are powering the destructive Black Lives Matter movement today (which on its own website states as one of its goals: “The dismantling of the Western proscribed nuclear family.”) Merton’s role model concept undercuts the importance of parents and nuclear families. That was the point of Barkley’s criticism... Technology has advanced the (decay), diminishing the influence of traditional authority figures and strengthening the reach of celebrities. Kids shut their bedroom doors, turn on their televisions, laptops, and game consoles, plug-in earbuds, open social media apps, and disappear into a world far removed from mom and dad.” (Jason Whitlock in “Imprimis” July/August 2020, a publication of Hillsdale College, <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/american-sports-letting-america/>)

Dearly beloved, the Lord has elected you to be his son/daughter, and he has called most of you into the high office of husband, wife, father or mother. And those of you whom he has called into the vocation of celibacy/singleness, your calling also is in support the divine institution of marriage and the family. After he sets out the office of husband and wife under Christ’s Lordship, Saint Paul writes: “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*”² “*Honor your father and mother*” (this is the first commandment with a promise),³ “*that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.*”⁴ *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*” Ephesians 6.1-4

God bless you in your highest and yet most ordinary office.



David Doss, President

Thy Kingdom Come

From Luther’s Small Catechism. This is the explanation of the Second Petition of The Lord’s Prayer. The kingdom of God certainly comes of itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also. The kingdom of God comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity. (Related Bible verses: Colossians 2:6-7, Matthew 9:35-38)

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

So, as I sit here in the exact same building I sat in back in December, I think about how much has changed in the last 10 months. It really gets summed up in one short story.

There is an on-post shopping area here at Fort Bliss called Freedom's Crossing. It has everything that we need and more from bargain stores to food court to sit down restaurants to higher end shops. It has been a frequent destination over the last 3 or 4 days because it is a constant reminder that we are home.

This shopping area is .8 miles from our barracks...the exact same .8 miles it was in December. Nothing has change about that distance.

In December, I distinctly remember how unwilling I was to walk to Freedom's Crossing. If the shuttle was not running, I was not going. It was a ridiculous thought to even consider. Fast forward through 9 months of walking everywhere in 110 plus degree heat with sand storms and long days and here I am.

I walked to Freedom's Crossing THREE times yesterday. Haven't waited on the shuttle a single time since we have been back.

Why? What changed?

The distance is the same. The temperatures are about the same. I didn't even buy anything yesterday. I just went.

The difference is perspective, I guess. My view of the world is not what it was last year. And that isn't a bad thing. Day before yesterday I walked 12.16 miles and I didn't even think about it. It is a new reality.

The church is in a new reality as well. We must understand that with the not-so-subtle changes in our world, we are not operating in the same reality we were in this time last year. We have choices to make about ministry in our congregation and in our own lives. But we have to keep one thing in mind as we do:

Though our ministry must change to meet the demands of the world we live in, the reason for our ministry has not and will never change.

I told a friend the other day, "The world has moved in a lot of ways, but the Cross is exactly where it was. It has not moved." We are still serving the same Jesus that we were before our world got turned upside down. Exactly like the post resurrection disciples/ apostles, we have to adjust to the new norm and keep sharing the love and hope of Jesus in the world around us. Prayers for you and for me as we determine what God has in store for us as we make that transition.

(And that transition leads me home...see you in a few days.)

St. Paul Quilters

During the quarantine, the Quilters of St. Paul were asked to sew masks for those needing them. Over 100 masks were delivered to the office and handed out. We hope they provided comfort and defense.

Linda Schlather deserves kudo's for cutting scrap fabric into kits so they can be made into quilt tops. An interesting fact we've discovered, each quilt top weighs about 1 pound. Linda cut and kitted 28. For those of you that sew or can help cut and kit, please come to Room 210.

The devastating explosion in Beirut that occurred in August not only caused severe damage, injury and death to those near the Port but an estimated 22,000 quilts were destroyed in the blast that Lutheran World Relief had in 3 shipping containers. Those quilts were to go to refugees and others affected by the unrest in the area.

On the home front, the 247 plus quilts the St. Paul Quilters were to send were NOT in the explosion. They were safely boxed and ready to go when the COVID-19 virus delayed transporting them to Seguin. The Quilters of St. Paul are planning on taking quilts to Seguin November 4. Help is needed moving packed boxes from the sewing room (Room 210) downstairs and on trailers and pickups. No box weighs more than 27 pounds.

If you can help move boxes and/or transporting quilts to Seguin on November 4, please meet in the office foyer and we can get the job done. Many hands make light work.

Each quilt has prayers and wishes for safety and comfort stitched into every one.

October

Altar Flowers



October 4 - Malcolm & Ola Fischer
 October 10 - Angela Bielke
 October 18 - Nancy Giese
 October 25 - Open

It's Coming.....



Disciple Orientation

Want to learn more about St. Paul? Want to grow in your relationship with Jesus and others? Want to become a member of St. Paul? If you answered yes to any of these, we invite you to join the Disciple Orientation class. The class will meet Sundays, September 27-November 1 at 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For additional information, contact the church office or Kimberly Wunderlich at kimberly@nbstpaul.org.



St Paul Youth News

We Believe

CONFIRMATION

This is a special time for our 9th graders and their parents. Confirmation retreat is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, October 3. Our Faith Statement Banquet will be on Sunday, October 18. Confirmands will be recognized and confirmed on Sunday, October 25 during the 10:30 a.m. service. For additional information or to RSVP, contact Kimberly Wunderlich at kimberly@nbstpaul.org.

EPIC Kids

Wednesday nights are going to be EPIC! At EPIC Kids, Kinder-5th grade students will be **Experiencing Passion in Christ**. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for praise and worship music. Then we will head up to Room 214 for EPIC teachings of the Bible, games, crafts, science activities and more fun surprises as we dig into scripture and grow closer in our relationship with Christ and each other. We can't wait to see everyone for our kickoff on Wednesday, October 7 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.! We need volunteers for EPIC Kids. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kimberly Wunderlich at kimberly@nbstpaul.org.



BLESSING OUR GRADUATES

Blessing Our Graduates
 Session 1 - Looking Back
 Wednesday, October 21
 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Room 201
 RSVP to Kimberly at kimberly@nbstpaul.org

Congratulations!

PIES FOR FIREFIGHTERS

On October 28, youth will be delivering pies to local fire stations in honor of Fire Prevention month. Please consider donating a homemade pie for this event. Pies should be at the church by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28.



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
F3 Ministry Manager - Kimberly Wunderlich - Kimberly@nbstpaul.org
Organist - Ann Brown - annb003@aol.com
Staff - Alison Setser - alison@nbstpaul.org
Multi-Media Staff - Lorrie Cook - lorrie@nbstpaul.org
CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191
PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044
FAX (830) 620-7715

October 2020



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.



777 W. San Antonio St.
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
simply engaging

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MEMBER LCMC
Return Services Requested

