

Paul Owens, Senior Pastor



What is the source of your freedom?

“Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘if you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” (John 8:31-32) Jesus was out to free his hearers... But they did not want him as the source of their freedom. Indeed, they believed they were already free: *“We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone”* (v.32). For the religious ones whose ears were too proud to hear Jesus, their freedom was sourced from their tribe, their genes, their race. They looked on ancestry.com and verified their bloodline from Abraham... so they thought that made them free.

In the 16th century, more religious people (the Roman Catholic hierarchy) tried to insist that your freedom is sourced through their system. A little monk with an ear for the Word confessed otherwise... and wrote out his confession in plain language and posted it on the town Facebook page for all to read. <https://www.luther.de/en/95thesen.html>

In the 21st century, Chase Bank wants you to think your freedom is sourced from their credit card. They have named it the “Freedom Card.” Hmmm?

As Americans, you and I could say that our civil freedom is sourced from the Declaration of Independence and the men and women who have given their lives to protect that freedom. That is certainly true regarding our civil or political freedom.

As nice as that freedom is, Jesus knows there is a much deeper freedom at stake for you and me.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.” (John 8:34) What good is all the political and financial freedom in the world to me, if I am still a slave to sin?

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (v.37). Ah, there he is, the source of true freedom. Crucified and raised from the dead, Jesus looks religious people, credit card holders, and Americans like you and me square in the eye and declares: “your sins are forgiven in my name.” There you have it, your true freedom. Now, don’t be greedy with that source. There are people right close to you desperate for freedom; so, start giving away Christ’s forgiveness right in your marriage, your family, at the dinner table and the bedside, and go out from there. Let freedom ring. ☺

Your brother in Christ...Pastor Paul

A Big Thank You

Congregation Life Board would like to thank the Worship Board, Evangelism/PR Board, Children's Ministry, the Youth Board, Risk Management Board, the Preschool, the Church Office and all the many volunteers including the Anna Class, the Upstairs Men's Sunday School Class, the Library Men's Class, PIF Sunday School class and the many, many volunteers it took to put on Family Worship In The Park. Successes included drawing in some non-members to worship, handing out several Bibles, reaching outside of our walls and having many in attendance! VBS families were invited as well as our preschool families.

We would like to publicly thank Bill Miller Bar-B-Q and Bubble Bounce for discounts as well as Bush’s Chicken for donating tea and cups. There are so many individuals who attended meetings since June, committed their time and energy, baked brownies, shopped, and cleaned up after the event, etc. This was truly a "whole church" endeavor! Whether you helped a little, or a lot, you are appreciated!

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



Tex Brown, President

Wow, what a great event we just held at Landa Park this past Sunday. God blessed us with excellent weather and we had a very nice crowd come out and enjoy the service as well as a great picnic and fun games for the kids. The Covenant band and the SPLC Messengers did a pre-service concert that helped attract some folks in the park and then both groups provided the music with Pastor Paul preaching the sermon for a great out door service at Landa Park. Many volunteers helped set up chairs, tables, equipment and even a Big Bouce house for the kids.

Congregational Life, Worship and Evangelism Boards were instrumental in organizing the event and of course our tech team and new A/V staffer, Laurie Cook, made the sound system awesome. Tim Cook was actually there and did a Live stream of the event on Facebook for those who couldn't be with us in the park. We are finding new and better ways to send the message of Jesus' love to others in our community. If you missed it, then make plans for next year to be with us for Family Worship in the Park. The congregation sat under a huge tree in the comfort of the shade and only those on stage got a bit warm from the sun, but came away with a sun tan. After the service there was an extra treat for all of us with the baptism of Molly Kate and Vivian Rivera in the Comal River!!

See you at the place where Jesus' love is uplifted.

Tex Brown
Congregational President

The Miracle of Jesus



Save the date of December 7 from 5-7 p.m. *The Miracle of Jesus* will be presented at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This special program is being put on for the families by the Children's Ministry and the VBS Committee. There will be a 20 minute presentation in the Sanctuary and then a short walk to the town of Bethlehem (Fellowship Hall). There families will experience the life and times of our Lord. There will be shops, a fishing pier and activities for all to enjoy. This is a one night presentation, so registration will be done on the church's website. We will need volunteers for the shops, towns people, and guides to open the gates of the city. More details will be coming. What a great way to begin the Christmas season. Want to volunteer? Please call Andi

Holmgreen at (210) 410-8777 or Pam Henderson at (209) 777-9572.



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>

Men's Round Up



Joe White played football at SMU then coached defense at Texas A&M. He is now President and CEO of KANAKUK Sports camps near Branson, Missouri. Each summer more than 24,000 kids come from around

the world to attend his camps. Joe has written more than 20 books, has been awarded 2 honorary doctorate degrees and speaks to world wide audiences. He founded Kids Across America as well as Men at the Cross and other ministries. Visit www.mensroundup.org to purchase tickets and hear Joe speak at Krause's Café on October 22.

*Are
you
ready
to
go
above
and
beyond?*

October Flowers



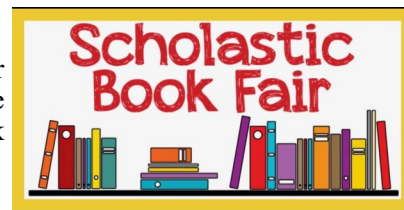
October 6 - Ola & Malcolm Fischer
 October 13 - Joe & Kathy Langhorst
 October 20 - Matthew & Michelle Rivera
 October 27 - Pete & Susan Montgomery

Preschool Ministry

Who can help you be brave? GOD can help you be brave.

This month's preschool memory verse is "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid.....for the Lord your God goes with you." - Deut. 31:6

Preschool has had a fun-filled month with our shoe box parade and pre-k visiting the baby barnyard.



October 21-25 is our Scholastic Book Fair, be sure to stop by and check it out!

St Paul Youth News

Wednesday, October 2

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Open gym & ARK event

Wednesday, October 9

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Open gym & Fellowship event

Wednesday, October 16

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. - BINGO @ Kirkwood
 (meet @ church at 6)

Sunday, October 20

Faith Statement Banquet in the evening
 Time and location TBD

Wednesday, October 23

6:00 p.m. - Open gym & service project
 (deliver pies to the firefighters)

Sunday, October 27

10:30 a.m. Confirmation Sunday
 (Confirmands need to arrive early)

Wednesday, October 30

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Halloween carnival
 @ Kirkwood
 (Church friendly costumes allowed;
 meet @ church at 6)



Yard Sale

The craft ladies are coming out of the upstairs cubby hole. Martha Stewart has nothing on us!!! Come see the fruits of our creativity displayed in our craft sale. Shop for Fall and Christmas decorating and gift giving. Pillows, aprons, notecards, décor items are just a few of the selections for sale.

Saturday, October 26

8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, under the portico

All proceeds will go to Advent Conspiracy—the program from Love for the Least (Jerry and Stacy Kramer) that puts Christ back in Christmas by giving to those who have the least.



Wild Game Dinner 2020

The planning for the Wild Game Dinner 2020 has begun! Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, February 1st! In addition, the WGD Committee will be happy to start accepting donations for the auctions. This event is a great way to get involved with your church family and make new friends all while supporting your community. Please contact Garth Bielke at garth.bielke@minigrip.com if you are interested in serving on the committee or making a donation.

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
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Director of Music & Creative Arts - Jody Noblett - jody@nbstpaul.org
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October 2019



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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