

Paul Owens, Senior Pastor



Steady as she goes...

When stormy seas come up on your boat, it's foolish and impossible to outrun them. Quite often the best course is steady as she goes.

I am reminded of our son's fourth grade teacher. Just like you, she was a beloved sinner and she did many things well. One of those was her steadiness. Every morning, Sharon Gammons made sure that by the time students and parents were coming in the building, she was always, always calmly seated on a stool outside her classroom door. No matter what was going on in the world - 9/11, in the neighborhood, or in her family life - there was Mrs. Gammons: sitting upright, humble yet confident in posture, sitting up straight to say to you with a smile: "Good morning." This was not proud, "I-got-this" stoicism. For Mrs. Sharon Gammons, this humble, dutiful, confidence came not from herself but from Jesus Christ. She began every day with Bible reading and prayer. Christ Jesus carried Sharon through three decades of raising her own children, teaching nearly a thousand others, and the death of her husband.

So for you, steady as she goes through the storm of Covid. When the devil gets you taking yourself too seriously, ask your spouse, your family, any other Christian for a little help, a listening ear, for a prayer, or for a light-hearted joke. Christ is your Lord, in all things and at all times... and there will most certainly be storms in this life. Seated calmly, confidently at your post, that is you! Need some additional, particular assurance? See Psalm 42.

Let's pray: Gracious and Almighty Father, thank you for your lordship and for your forgiveness for me in Christ. When the seas are calm and especially when they are rough, your right hand reaches forth to deliver me from the devil, the world's anxiety, and my own sinful self. Thank you Lord; in Jesus' name, amen.

David Doss, Interim President



The calendar is telling us that autumn is not far away and cooler weather is ahead of us. And as usual, we find ourselves in the need of rain as we run out of August days. Most dove hunters know that rain is not too far away. It always seems to show up just in time to keep the birds from flying.

Speaking of flying, it seems more and more of the St. Paul congregation is flocking to the Sunday morning services. It is so nice to be in fellowship (in person) with so many of our neighbors. We know COVID is still lurking around so we will continue to follow all the precautions outlined by our national, state and local leadership.

In August we celebrated Pastor Paul and his family being at St. Paul for 10 years. He has been such a blessing for this church and all of New Braunfels. He has continued the tradition of Lutheran pastors being leaders in the community. From the first Protestant pastor in New Braunfels, Louis Ervendberg, to date Lutheran pastors have led and been a blessing to our city. Thank you Pastor Paul for all you do!!

In September, we will hold our semiannual congregational meeting. Due to COVID we had to postpone the June meeting. We are finally able to hold this meeting. There will be some council positions that we will need to vote for and other positions will need to be ratified. We will have some special voting processes that will be different than prior votes, this again is due to the COVID pandemic.

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon. Don't forget to pray for and reach out to those in the community that need some good Christian Love.

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

If everything is as it should be, then I am writing my last letter to you from the Middle East. (That in itself is a huge matter of prayer.)

But as we are transitioning with our replacements this week and we turn our eyes toward home, I had a few moments of reality hit me in the face.

I spent some time with a soldier who over the course of this deployment found themselves at the end of a relationship. I sat across from them at 1 in the morning and listened to their fear about what returning home was going to look like. It was not going to be the same. They were not the same.

It was a sobering reminder that even though I am excited to return to my family and to my church family, not everyone is as lucky as I am. For some this is a very scary time in their lives because uncertainty is staring them in the face.

Their world has changed. Their life has changed. They have changed. And to be honest, we have all changed. The world I am coming back to is not the one I left just as the Pastor that left you is not the same one that is coming back.

It is scary to imagine how to operate in this new reality. Sound familiar?

Imagine the 1st century Church and the reality shift that they faced. Isolated, persecuted, and even hunted. Each day was uncertain and full of fear. That was their reality.

The modern Church has shifting sand all over the place with our new reality. Nothing is as it was a year ago and even the very fabric of our congregations is different. That is our reality.

So, in the most uncertain of times what keeps us grounded? What is our anchor?

Matthew 7: 24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

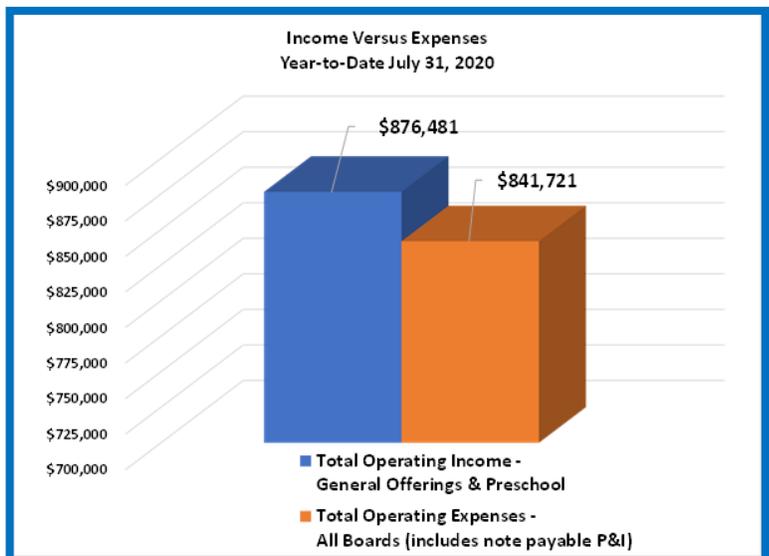
Faith is our only answer. We have to live our lives with God as the rock that we have built our house on. We have to know that the change in this world will not overcome our faith in Christ because He promises to be there even in the toughest of times. How much tougher does it have to get for us to turn our eyes to God and look to Him for safety in the storm? No party, no President, no family member, not even a Pastor is going to keep us sheltered the way our God will. So, we must turn to Him in this time...this time that has exemplified change...and know that we are not in control but He is. And we can trust in that. That is what keeps us grounded. That is our anchor.

Love and blessings to each of you. Hopefully to see you all soon.

Simply Engaging Sunday

Sunday, September 13
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Please be sure to join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 13 from 9:15-10:15 a.m. for Simply Engaging Sunday. You will be able to browse the various opportunities in which you can serve at St. Paul, along with the different Bible study classes available. Children will also be able to "Meet the Teacher" for their Sunday School classes. You don't want to miss it!!





Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University (FPU) courses are returning this fall. Sign-up now on our website (<https://www.nbstpaul.org/fpu/>).

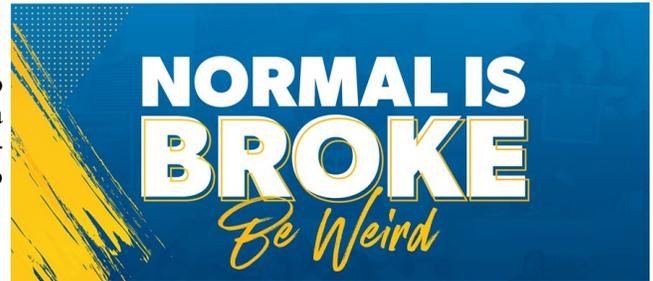
ONLINE COURSE

September 16–November 11
Wednesday evenings
6:30–7:15 p.m.

TRADITIONAL COURSE

September 20–November 15
Sunday mornings
9:15–10:45 a.m.

The online course allows participants to complete the video content on their own time and the group comes together via Zoom for a 30–45 minute discussion and interaction session. Invite your friends and family from across the country to join you in the online course via Zoom.



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting September 27, 2020

The June 2020 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting was postponed to September 27, 2020 due to the Global Pandemic.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Action Items:
 - a. Voting members
 - b. Ratifications
 - c. Elections
5. Reports
 - a. President's Remarks
 - b. Annual Report
 - c. Finance Report
6. New Business
 - a. Phase 1B
 - b. Ministry Staffing Plan
7. Election Results
8. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Disciple Orientation

September 27–November 1
9:15–10:15 a.m.

We are starting a New Disciple Orientation class beginning September, 27. If you are interested in learning more about St. Paul and would like to become a member, please call the church office (830-625-9191) to sign-up and take this class. It meets 6 consecutive Sundays during the Sunday School hour and gives you insight into our history, teachings and beliefs. Come check it out!



Health & Safety Practices

We are continuing our health and safety practices...temperature taken upon entry into the building, sanitize hands, and wear a mask. Before and after each meeting at church, we sanitize the room, just as we do after each worship service on Sundays. We continue to be vigilant in our practices so that you can remain safe and comfortable in your church home. Stay safe and blessings to you!



Your St. Paul Staff

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

September 2020



www.nbstpaul.org

Sunday morning worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
9:15 a.m. Bible Study Hour (limited classes meeting)
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

Non Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage Pd.
Permit #90
New Braunfels, TX 78130

MEMBER LCMC
Return Services Requested

