



## *Paul Owens, Senior Pastor*

In the scheduled Bible reading last month and this month, Jesus is after not the religious cleanliness or righteousness projects of the self; he's after your heart... and he'll get it in such a way that family relationships and relationship with the rest of your neighbors are redeemed, shaped and defined by him. As Christ's church, we are a Pentecost people. I don't mean we are Pentecostals, as in our neighbors in that denomination; I mean that the church is the work of Christ's Holy Spirit on, for and through us. As Jesus bluntly puts it in John 6.63, our "flesh is of no help at all," we cannot by our own reason or effort believe in Jesus or come to him, but the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies us. The schedule of Bible readings we follow each year on a 3-year cycle, pull us out of the black hole of ourselves and give us instead Christ's voice in our ears. Instead of the preacher's or the culture's current interests or anxieties, we read the life of Jesus and the life of his church each year, starting over every Advent. Here we are deep in the season of the life of his church, Pentecost season. And what Jesus addresses to us is the conflict between our human hearts and his kingdom... and his forgiveness for sinners like us who don't deserve it.

As our kids and grandkids head back to school (God bless our local superintendents, school boards, and our governor) and the culture rages and totters with anxiety and animosity, the best thing you and I can do is hear Jesus and his Holy Spirit speak to us in the pew on Sundays and at our dinner tables and bedsides during the week... and then calmly, clearly share his reign with our neighbor in word and deed. Keep washing your hands, mask up if you need to, and above all give Jesus to your neighbor and bear one another's burdens.



## *David Doss, President*

### **Living on the Vine**

This month I am simply going to quote Martin Luther. I have a devotional book, *Faith Alone*. It contains 365 devotional readings, one for each day of the year. Each day has a Bible verse and Dr. Luther's comment on that verse.

"I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who live in me while I live in them will produce a lot of fruit. But you can't produce anything without me." -John 15:5

By saying that believers live in Him and He lives in them, Jesus is making it clear that Christianity is not something we put on externally. We don't put it on like clothes. We don't adopt it as a new lifestyle that focuses on our own efforts, as do those who practice a holy lifestyle they have invented themselves. Rather, Christian faith is a birth brought about by God's Word and Spirit. A Christian must be a new person from the depths of his heart. Once the heart is born anew in Christ, these fruits will follow: confession of the gospel, love, obedience, patience, purity and so on.

In this passage, Christ warns his disciples that they must remain in his Word. Remaining in the Word leads to genuine, newborn Christians. These true Christians produce much fruit. They guard themselves from the teaching that perverts God's Word and that tries to make grapes from thistles and thorns. This will never happen, however, because each kind produces its own kind. Even if you teach about, strive for, and pile up good works, your nature won't change. You must first possess a new nature. You won't accomplish anything by striving and exhausting yourself.

The two types of work remain vastly different. The one type of work is produced by human effort, while the other grows naturally. The works we make up always require us to strive harder, but they never do as well as natural growth. In contrast, natural growth stands, moves, lives, and does what it should naturally. So Christ says, "All other human teaching cannot succeed because it instructs people to make up works. But if you live in me, as natural branches live on the vine, you will certainly produce good fruit." - Well stated Martin!

*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

## **Family Faith Formations...Connect, Learn & Serve**

### ◇ **Meet the Teacher**

- September 5 at 9:15-10:15 a.m. in Room 213
- Children age 3-5th grade and their parents are invited
- Parents can register their children and learn about the curriculum while children participate in a fun activity.



### ◇ **Engagement Project**

- September 7-November 9 on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Room 203
- All are welcome to join TNT's small group study of Dr. Del Tackett's *The Engagement Project*.

### ◇ **EPIC**

- September 8-December 8 on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Room 214
- Children age Kinder-5th grade are invited to EPIC (Experiencing Passion in Christ)
- This fall will feature lessons on the armor of God and Psalms through Bible stories, crafts, science activities, games, service projects and fun!
- Please RSVP to Kimberly at [kimberly@nbstpaul.org](mailto:kimberly@nbstpaul.org)



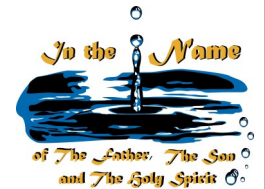
### ◇ **My Bible Faith Stepping Stone**

- September 12-October 17 on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Chapel
- For 3rd graders and their parents



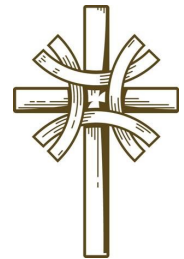
### ◇ **Raising a Healthy Baby**

- September 15 and 22 on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room 152
- Focuses on the physical, emotional, and spiritual development of infants and prepares families for infant baptism.



### ◇ **Foundation Series**

- September 26-October 24 on Sundays from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in Room 152
- A great introduction to St. Paul that focuses on what we believe and teach, prayer, history of St. Paul and Lutheran churches, Faith Stepping Stones and small group Bible studies.



### ◇ **Confirmation Stepping Stone**

- October 13, October 17, October 20 (3 sessions)
- October 24 (Faith Statement Banquet)
- October 31 (Confirmation)
- For students beginning 9th grade

## **Family Fun in the Park**

Saturday, October 16  
9 a.m. -12 Noon



Family Fun in the Park is a wonderful event for families and is hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church. This event will connect us with families outside our walls, help us to learn about our neighbors, and be in service to others in our community. There will be craft stations, Sand Stories, music, food and more! Lots of volunteers are needed for this event to be successful. More information will be available soon, but be sure to mark your calendar now! You won't want to miss it.

## **Call for Volunteers and Coffee**

The Coffee Crew is needing more volunteers to assist with this ministry. If you drink coffee you would be a great candidate to help with this ministry. It only takes about 30 minutes on a Saturday or early Sunday to set-up and then 30 minutes after Sunday School hour to clean-up. The goal is to have 6-10 teams rotate every 6-10 weeks. For more information, please contact Cindy at [corsak1@satx.rr.com](mailto:corsak1@satx.rr.com) or call the church office.



**September Altar Flowers**

September 5 - Open  
 September 12 - Rodney & Sharon Bartels  
 September 19 - Ryan & Patricia Bosse  
 September 26 - Open

**Financial Peace University**

September 8 - November 3  
 Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m.

Financial Peace University (FPU) is returning this fall. Sandi Owens will be the facilitator for the course. Childcare will be available. As a bonus, a \$50 reimbursement will be offered to those who register for class and complete at least 8 of 9 weekly classes (limit 1 per couple/household). Sign-up at <https://www.nbstpaul.org/fpu/>.

**Family Dinners**

Beginning September 8, join us every Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. for family dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity to enjoy a meal and fellowship with your church family. You are invited to join a small group as well. All are welcome! See below for the menus each week.

**September 8**

King Ranch chicken  
 Tossed Salad  
 Green Beans with tomatoes  
 Bread  
 Rice Crispy Treat

**September 15**

Beef Enchilada Casserole  
 Tossed Salad  
 Fruit Cocktail  
 Tortillas  
 Cookies

**September 22**

Hot Dog with Chili  
 Fresh Fruit  
 Carrot sticks with ranch  
 Chips  
 Brownies

**September 29**

Lasagna  
 Tossed Salad  
 Canned Peaches  
 Bread  
 Cake

**From the Executive Director...**

Dearest SPLC Congregation,

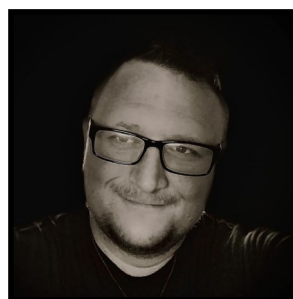
I will be transitioning out of my role as Executive Director of St Paul. My last day in the office will be September 10, 2021. I am not leaving the church and I am eager for my role at St. Paul Lutheran Church to evolve. While I will no longer be the Executive Director, my family will continue to be active participants, voting members and volunteers.

My next career adventure will be joining a non-profit early childhood organization, Brighton Center, in San Antonio as their Vice President of Education. [www.brightonsa.org](http://www.brightonsa.org) I am excited for this opportunity in my professional career as it is working with a multi-site non-profit organization focused on education for children, families and teachers.

I appreciate all the relationships I have built and the opportunities for learning I have experienced as the Executive Director. I also look forward to sitting in the pew with my family, singing in the choir and voting at the next congregational meeting!

Many Blessings,

Michelle Rivera

**Men's Roundup**

September 14  
 6:00 p.m.  
 Krause's Café

Guest Speaker:  
 Senior Chief (Dr.) John Gee

Tickets available soon:  
[www.mensroundup.org](http://www.mensroundup.org)

**Preschool**

The school age program at St. Paul had the opportunity to visit St. Martin's Church over the summer. The children learned about the history of the church and explored the grounds. They especially enjoyed getting to walk up to the altar and ring the bell of the church.



Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - [pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org](mailto:pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org)

Executive Director of Operations & Preschool - Michelle Rivera - [michelle@nbstpaul.org](mailto:michelle@nbstpaul.org)

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Bookkeeper/Controller - Stacy Garcia - [stacy@nbstpaul.org](mailto:stacy@nbstpaul.org)

Director of Music & Creative Arts - Jody Noblett - [jody@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jody@nbstpaul.org)

F3 Ministry Manager - Kimberly Wunderlich - [kimberly@nbstpaul.org](mailto:kimberly@nbstpaul.org)

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Organist - Ann Brown - [annb003@aol.com](mailto:annb003@aol.com)

Staff - Alison Setser - [alison@nbstpaul.org](mailto:alison@nbstpaul.org)

Multi-Media Staff - Lorrie Cook - [lorrie@nbstpaul.org](mailto:lorrie@nbstpaul.org)

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**September 2021**



[www.nbstpaul.org](http://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 and Facebook.**



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