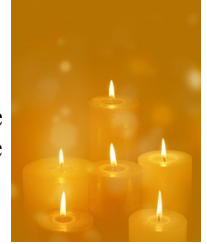


# *The Epistle*

**Sunday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT**

This women's ministry event will be Sunday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us in celebrating the birth of Christ with fellowship, carol singing, and learning about the history of the Christmas tree.



**Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.  
ADVENT SERVICE**

"Christmas for Sale", two vendors offer their very different versions of Christmas to hungry shoppers, but only one will truly fill the shoppers needs.



**Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m.  
"FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING" AT ST. MARTIN**

Join us Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. for caroling at "God's jewel on the loop", the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Martin. After the caroling, stay for refreshments and fellowship. This event is family friendly. Kindly bring family and friends as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child.

**Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
ADVENT SERVICE - Neighborhood Caroling and Christmas Party**

The Advent Service for this night will be Outside our Walls! We will go caroling to nearby neighbors and spread Jesus' love to them. Please bring a dozen homemade cookie to leave at each house. Afterwards we will have fellowship and enjoy cookies and hot cocoa at church.



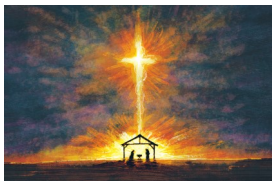
**Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m.  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The Sunday School children will be performing their annual program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



**Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Come and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



**Sunday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m.  
CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

Only one service Christmas morning! Please note that there **will not** be any Sunday School.

**Sunday, January 1  
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services  
9:15 a.m. Bibles Study**

## Paul Owens, Senior Pastor



### God Loves Meat

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”* Jesus in John 3.16-17

“Carne” is the Latin and Spanish word for *flesh, meat*. Christmas is all about the **incarnation** of God. The Lord did not stay put in heaven and play it safe. In Jesus, God showed up in the flesh, in the meat... and it cost him his life. After his nasty crucifixion (which really was the punishment we deserved), Jesus rose from the dead and commissioned you and me with this promise: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1.8.

So, here is the message of Christ’s birth in the vernacular of Arby’s restaurant: *For God so loved meat – that is, fleshy humans – he sent his Son*. And now, because he so loves these humans, Jesus sends you and me to be his witnesses. Remember, a witness does not take the stand and stare at his shoes and remain silent. A witness testifies, confesses... tells aloud what he or she knows. Jesus has grabbed up a meat-headed sinner like you, saved you, and sent you as his witness. And for your everyday testimony, your witnessing, He has promised nothing less than the power of his Holy Spirit. How about that! Having mission mindset, being a witness for Jesus Christ, is actually the work of the Holy Spirit rather than another one of your projects☺. Here is some of what the Scriptures say about the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his people... people who are witnesses with words, with their mind set on mission:

- Mark 13.11 – The Spirit will give you the words to say
- Luke 3.16 – you have been baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire
- Luke 4.1 – The Holy Spirit leads
- John 20.22 – The Holy Spirit authorizes you to forgive sin
- Romans 8.26 – The Spirit helps you in your weakness and intercedes for you
- I Cor 12.3 – The Holy Spirit creates faith

Jesus has called you **his witness** and **empowered you with his Holy Spirit**. So, this Christmas season – and all year long – you can say to your family and neighbors: “God loves meat☺.” And then be ready to declare to your fellow meatheads the forgiveness of their sins in Jesus’ name. That’s what witnesses do, you know☺.

Pastor Paul



December 2016

*Chip Reynolds, Pastor*

There are few times of the year that stresses me out. Really there are only two, January through October and then November through December. That's it.

All kidding aside, November and December really seem like they take everyone's stress to a different level. I think this is ironic because of what we celebrate at this time of year.

November is the celebration of being thankful for all that the Lord has done for us. Psalm 138: 1 & 2 says it like this:

*I will give You thanks with all my heart; I will sing Your praise before the heavenly beings. I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your constant love and truth.*

And yet it seems like the last thing on our mind is being thankful. We are running 90 miles an hour and we fail to see the life that we have in Christ. It is truly a challenge in this pace of life to be thankful or maybe we have just been conditioned to be more concerned with our stuff than to see God.

The other thing that screams at me throughout this season is that following our season of thanksgiving is the true reason to be thankful. Lots goes on: family, gifts, travel, fun. And we wait until December 24<sup>th</sup> to really focus on Christ. We will throw around the phrase "Keep Christ in Christmas" almost like a mantra, but the true challenge is to do it for the entire season instead of just one or two days.

We have to have that grateful heart throughout the year. We have to bow down in front of the throne of the Father and sing his praises. We have to turn our eyes upon Christ all the time not just when the season dictates. This is the challenge for all people of faith...for all Christians.

This is what screams out from the Psalm. God's "**CONSTANT** love and truth" is what we need to focus on this season and the days following this season. He loves us year round and we need to do the same. Honestly, we need to focus on it throughout the entire year. And keep Christ not only in Christmas, but we need to keep him in life...**CONSTANTLY**.

In His Arms,

PC



**Communion Preparers & Servers still needed  
for the 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service!  
Call the church office for more information!**



## Family Christmas Caroling at St. Martin

St. Paul is proud to be the steward of the historic Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Martin. Built in 1851, St. Martin is the oldest Lutheran church building in Texas. A committee, commonly known as the St. Martin committee, facilitates events such as weddings, history days, Christmas caroling, Ash Wednesday services and other events. In addition to the caroling, members of the congregation maintain the grounds and restrooms.

One of our most popular events is the annual caroling service. Each December, we gather on a Sunday afternoon at St. Martin to enjoy the simple beauty of the church and the human voice. After an enjoyable song service in the beautifully restored Church, we will step outside (weather permitting) for refreshments and fellowship. This service, and the fellowship, is appropriate for all ages. St. Martin's location at Hortontown Cemetary provides lots of open space outside the sanctuary. Children are encouraged to explore the fenced grounds and look inside the walls through glass at the back of the building. A paved pedestrian path provides easy access to the sanctuary and bathrooms from the grass parking area.

**Please join us on December 11th, 2016 at 4pm**  
for a beautiful, simple and moving celebration of the season.



**Save the Date!**  
**December 14th**  
**at 6:30pm!**

Advent service for this night will be Outside our Walls!

We will go caroling to nearby neighbors and spread Jesus' love to them.

Please bring a dozen homemade cookies to leave at each house.

Afterwards we will have fellowship and enjoy cookies and hot cocoa at church.

### *Our Sympathy to*

Jan Lee on the death of her husband, Harvey Lee.  
Shirley Zunker on the death of her sister, Rhoda Jahns.



## *December Flowers*



December 4	Open
December 11	Koran & Jill Kreuzler
December 18	Glenn & Muriel Ostberg
December 25	Marlin McFarland





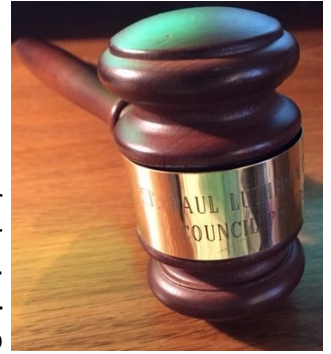
## *Fred Terry, Congregation President*

Greetings, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

Merry Christmas and may the full joys of the season be upon you all!

It is a great time of the year with celebrations and family being close. For those of us who enjoy everything on the table, we live for the tastes. As for myself, I will be in the kitchen slaving away over the stove preparing side dishes, cakes, pies, and muffins for my family's gathering and the several gatherings with friends, co-workers, and clients. There is just barely enough time to recuperate from the Thanksgiving Events! Let us all remember the reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

If you have been keeping up with my messages over the past few months, remarks at Council Meetings and the Congregation Meeting, as well as most any conversation with me personally; you will know that I speak of change. Here are photos of me before and after a change in my appearance:



Sometimes, change is not a good thing, but what will be presented to you, is! My efforts are to prepare you for a change to our governances here at St. Paul. There is a group of folks that are working diligently to make our functionality smaller, easier, and simply better. Stay tuned!

The Council wishes to invite all who would like to join us in some Christmas Caroling followed with some snacks on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in the Courtyard around 6:30 and journey in several different directions, caroling through the neighborhood and returning to some light snacks and beverages. The entire Congregation is invited to come join us!

In November, the Congregation approved the 2017 Spending Plan with a major majority of acceptance. This Spending Plan is the most progressive and realistic budget that this Congregation has as its working tool. Congratulations to the Boards and the Administration in their efforts for a good and solid effort.

***As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to the haughty, nor to set their hopes on uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, this storing up treasure to themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1 Timothy 17-19***

As I end, I must say thank you! Thank you all for taking the step-up, bringing yourselves to the Lord, tithing to the Lord, serving the Lord, the best that you can!

Thanks Be To God! Your brother in Christ! **Fred**

## *The Report Card - Karisha Neely Director*

### **This Month's Featured Teacher:**

Hello, my name is Sheila Fox, the lead teacher in the Zebra Class. I am married to my best friend Bradley, and we have a 4 year old son, Brayden.

I have an Associates Degree of Applied Science in Electronic Engineering from Hallmark Institute of Technology. I repaired medical and banking equipment for 7 yrs. We moved back to New Braunfels in 2012 and I have been actively working on my CDA in preschool and my teaching degree from Wayland Baptist University.

I have been with St. Paul for 3 1/2 years and taught in the Geckos Class originally. I am honored to be able to teach these wonderful young minds in the Zebras Class. I love to watch your child grow and to know them as the amazing young children they are.

I enjoy a good cup of coffee or sweet tea. I also enjoy reading, scrapbooking, and taking too many pictures! I try to spend as much time as I can with my family and friends. We are a military family and we support all the men and women serving our country. GO ARMY!

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



**This year's Preschool Wurstfest Celebration**

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### **NURSERY OPPORTUNITIES NURSERY**

The Christian Education Board is seeking one or two persons to work at the St. Paul Nursery. The hours are Sundays from 7:45-11:45AM, Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00PM, and possibly Tuesday and/or Thursdays from 6:15-8:00PM. Position qualifications are the same as those for St. Paul Lutheran Preschool. To apply please contact Karisha Neely at [karisha@nbstpaul.org](mailto:karisha@nbstpaul.org) or (830) 625-2044.

# Der Elefant



This is the name of a special shift that will be starting here at St Paul in January.....We are embarking on a nine-week series of instruction by world-renowned Dave Ramsey who will be teaching us the Biblical principles of finances.....The series will likely run every night and on Sunday morning too.....Each person or couple can pick which night or morning is best for you to attend and learn all about handling finances....Dave Ramsey teaches via a video series and a workbook and you will laugh, learn and best of all be taught ways to get rid of debt and become financially free... Several folks in the church have taken the course as a preview and will act as facilitators for the rest of us.....

In every room there is an elephant that no one wants to talk about and for many that is money.....It is a subject that hurts marriages, friendships and sometimes ruins lives.....70% of all Americans are in debt and living paycheck to paycheck; money fights are the number one reason for divorce in America.....So it is vital that all evangelical believers understand the principles given to us from the Bible and learn to apply them in our lives.....Dave Ramsey does EXACTLY that and whether you are young or old we all can learn from this series.....I encourage all members of SPLC and even others from outside our church to sign up for the Financial Peace University lessons taught by Dave Ramsey (visit: [www.davramsey.com](http://www.davramsey.com) to find a class and register). Don't let the elephant in the room go unspoken or unnoticed.....Look for the "Der Elefant" at SPLC and let's talk about it!!.....

See you Sunday at the church that cares about all people.....

Tex Brown

## Memorial Committee Report

### December 2016

Memorials during the month of October 2016 were given in memory of the following people:

Roy and Teresa Duelm, Melvin Feters, Marilyn Heise Helmke, Terry Jentsch, Dwight Kanz, Paxton Montgomery, Bernice Noble, and William (Bill) Tart

After consulting with Karisha Neely, director of the St. Paul Day School, the committee has purchased a soft play set made of foam which fits into different configurations to encourage active play by infants and toddlers. It can be formed into steps, a slide or other formations and be used inside or out-of-doors. This is what it looks like.





# **December 2016 Youth Calendar**

- Sun., Dec. 4 Tree Trimming Party 12:30pm – All 6th - 12th grade  
We will travel to Kirkwood
- Wed., Dec. 7 Advent Service & Small group 6:30pm - 8:00pm
- Wed., Dec. 14 Caroling & Christmas Party
- Fri., Dec. 16 High School Youth Christmas Progressive Dinner - meet at church at 5:30pm, should return around 10:30pm
- Sat., Dec. 11 Middle School Christmas Party from 6:00pm - 10:00pm at the Lear family property
- Wed., Dec. 21 No Service
- Sat., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services at 5:00pm & 7:30pm
- Sun., Dec. 25 Christmas Service at 9:30, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- Wed., Dec. 28 No Service
- Fri., Dec. 30 Escape Haus Fellowship Event - All 6th - 12th grade at 6:45. Dinner is on your own, but many people will be gathering around 5:30pm at Firehouse Subs (located near Lowes).  
*Admission fee: \$15.00 per person - MUST be paid in advance (by Dec. 28,2016) to the church office. Make checks payable to SPLC and in memo notate Escape Haus. (Cash will also be accepted but secure it in an envelope with the name of all participants and identify the cash as "Escape Haus fees").*



## **SAVE THE DATE**

1. Graduate Blessing Stepping Stone -For all current high school seniors and parents. Please join us on the following dates for the 2nd and 3rd lessons:  
Wed. Feb.1 - 6:30pm-7:30pm - Room TBD  
Wed. May 17 - Beginning at 6:30pm - location TBD
2. Mission New Braunfels - June 6-10 (Tuesday- Saturday). Space is limited. Participants will be staying at church from Tuesday-Sat. Details to come.
3. Camp Eagle - July 17-22, 2017 (Mon.-Sat)- For all current 6th-12th grade students. Cost per camper is \$240.00 (actual cost is \$400.00). One may sign up when it becomes available. Monthly payments as low as \$40.00 are being accepted now in the church office. Make checks payable to SPLC and in memo notate Camp Eagle 2017.



### *Music Ministry - Jody Noblett Director of Music & Creative Arts*

- Children:** Cherub Choir (3yrs - 2nd Gr.) 10:10 a.m. Sunday - Jody Noblett  
Alleluia Choir (3rd - 6thGr.) 9:15 a.m. Sunday - Jody Noblett
- Youth:** Mimes practice as needed - Diana Clayburne  
Puppets practice as needed - Azeneth Knudson
- Adults:** Covenant Band 6:00 p.m. Wednesday - Jody Noblett  
Sanctuary Choir 7:00 p.m. Wednesday - Jody Noblett



### *Ministry Partners*

**Quilters** - Meet every Tuesday 9:00 a.m. in Rm. 212 to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Contact Betty Pankau

**Prayer Blankets** - Meet as needed to crochet prayer blankets for the sick. Contact Dorothy Nehring

**Sunshine Ministry** - Make gifts and take them to our shut-ins. Contact Jeannie Anderson

**Bereavement Ministry** - Meet as needed to provide receptions for funeral/memorial services. Contact Carol Schorn

**Eucharistic Ministry** - Give communion to shut-ins monthly. Contact Carolyn Zunker

**Hospital Visitors Ministry** - Visit members in the hospital. Contact Ola Fischer

**Use Your Car Ministry** - Good Neighbors that drive others to church or appointments. Contact Benno Engel

**Prayer Ministry** - Contact Carolyn Zunker **Friday Morning Prayer** - Contact Roylene Haggard or Gloria Jung

**Kitchen Angels** - Provide meals as needed for those coming home from the hospital. Contact Emily Harborth

**Master Craftsmen** - All men of St. Paul - First Wednesday, 7:30 am. Contact Harold Voges

### *Fellowship Ministry*

**Breaking Bread Groups** - meet monthly in people's homes. Contact Dotty Collins

**Bridge Friends** - meet the 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1:30p.m. at New Braunfels Senior Citizens Center. Contact Karen Krieg

**Mah Jongg Friends** - meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 1:30 Contact Shirley Stamets at 620-1731 for location.

**Out to Eat Friends** - meet on the 2nd Friday at 5:00 p.m. Contact Sue & Larry Schwab

**Domino Friends** - meet the 4th Saturday at 6:00 p.m. Contact Janice & Larry Phillips



# Financial Page

*Stacy Garcia, Bookkeeper/Controller*

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2016  
 Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 10 OCTOBER  
 SUMMARY

Description	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual October	2016 Budget YTD	2016 Actual YTD	Over/(Under) r) Budget
Administrative and Office	\$ 37,986.67	\$ 39,444.00	\$ 2,444.25	\$ 31,767.50	\$ 29,968.41	\$ (1,799.09)
Christian Education	\$ 10,310.97	\$ 12,720.00	\$ 827.12	\$ 11,506.65	\$ 5,380.14	\$ (6,126.51)
Congregational Life	\$ 13,694.70	\$ 17,600.00	\$ 1,456.89	\$ 15,325.00	\$ 8,016.40	\$ (7,308.60)
Evangelism	\$ 5,689.67	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 901.00	\$ 3,350.00	\$ 1,827.90	\$ (1,522.10)
* Finance Committee	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 8,333.33	\$ 83,333.34	\$ 83,333.30	\$ (0.04)
Personnel	\$ 431,689.90	\$ 504,338.00	\$ 36,317.79	\$ 424,137.68	\$ 400,430.04	\$ (23,707.64)
** Preschool (expenses only - see income below)	\$ 481,931.58	\$ 501,913.17	\$ 40,114.93	\$ 417,770.87	\$ 429,800.40	\$ 12,029.53
Property	\$ 100,250.63	\$ 113,301.00	\$ 7,251.95	\$ 95,125.48	\$ 69,909.47	\$ (25,216.01)
Public Relations	\$ 6,483.12	\$ 6,860.00	\$ 1,179.00	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 6,558.00	\$ 808.00
*** Stewardship	\$ 83,251.27	\$ 91,626.00	\$ 6,196.84	\$ 76,355.00	\$ 58,541.33	\$ (17,813.67)
Worship	\$ 11,747.34	\$ 15,930.00	\$ 1,176.26	\$ 13,150.00	\$ 10,071.72	\$ (3,078.28)
Youth & Family	\$ 1,661.08	\$ 10,640.00	\$ 147.95	\$ 10,006.66	\$ 10,468.96	\$ 462.30
<b>SPENDING TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 1,284,696.93</b>	<b>\$ 1,418,172.17</b>	<b>\$ 106,347.31</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,578.18</b>	<b>\$ 1,114,306.07</b>	<b>\$ (73,272.11)</b>
<b>General Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 831,262.88</b>	<b>\$ 915,017.17</b>	<b>\$ 67,357.03</b>	<b>\$ 762,514.31</b>	<b>\$ 638,832.28</b>	<b>\$ (123,682.03)</b>
<b>Preschool Income</b>	<b>\$ 544,039.74</b>	<b>\$ 503,155.00</b>	<b>\$ 39,651.22</b>	<b>\$ 420,835.00</b>	<b>\$ 441,586.41</b>	<b>\$ 20,751.41</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,375,302.62</b>	<b>\$ 1,418,172.17</b>	<b>\$ 107,008.25</b>	<b>\$ 1,183,349.31</b>	<b>\$ 1,080,418.69</b>	
<b>NET MINISTRY PROCEEDS</b>	<b>\$ 90,605.69</b>		<b>\$ 660.94</b>		<b>\$ (33,887.38)</b>	

- NOTES:
- \* Finance Committee expenses are only a simulation of anticipated building-note payments post repair/renovation. These "simulated expenses" are shown as a re-categorization of undesignated funds to designated funds on the Statement of Position and Designated Fund Summary.
  - \*\* The Preschool line item only reports expenses, not net proceeds for the ministry area. For net proceeds, subtract Preschool expenses from Preschool income.
  - \*\*\* Stewardship expenses are benevolence based on a percentage of general offerings each month.

**2017  
Approved Budget**

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2017 Approved BUDGET 000 Undesignated Funds - ALL DEPARTMENTS Budget Figures	
	<b>2017 Approved Budget</b>
Administrative and Office	\$ 37,545
Christian Education	\$ 10,820
Congregational Life	\$ 14,000
Evangelism	\$ 2,000
Finance Committee	\$ 91,000
Personnel	\$ 483,539
Property	\$ 104,000
Public Relations	\$ 4,000
Stewardship	\$ 89,702
Worship	\$ 14,000
Youth & Family	\$ 10,414
Operating Expenses	\$ 861,020
Plus Preschool Expenses	\$ 500,148
TOTAL Ministry and Program Needs	\$ 1,361,168
LESS Preschool Ministry Income	\$ (507,020)
<b>NET Ministry and Program Needs</b>	<b>\$ 854,148</b>

# Congregation at Study

## Sunday Morning - 9:15 am

### Birth through 12th Grade

The Nursery through 5th grade will be studying the Spark Activate Faith Series. The curriculum follows the lectionary calendar.

**Nursery Children** - led by Cassie Mueller, meet in the Butterfly Room.

**3 years – 4 years** - led by Nancy Schlather and Kristin Haas, meet in the Monkey Room.

**5 years – Kindergarten** - led by Azeneth Knudson and Cheryl Koepp, meet in the Gecko Room.

**1st Graders – 2nd Graders** - led by Tracy Granado, meet in Room 208.

**3rd Graders – 4th Graders** - led by Jill Kreisler and Kristee Wirebaugh, meet in Room 204.

**5th Graders** - led by Kelly King, meet in Room 203.

**The 6th Grade through 12th will be studying “The Gospel Project”.**

**It is a three year program that starts with Genesis and goes to Revelation.**

**6th Graders** - meet in Room 223.

**7th Graders – 8th Graders** - led by Joe Wilson, meet in Room 224.

**9th Graders – 12th Graders** - led by Pastor Chip Reynolds & Steve Chapman, meet in the Youth Room upstairs.

**Nursery Available in the Butterfly Room from 7:45 – 11:45am**



### Adult Classes

**Men’s Bible Study**, led by Tex Brown, is taking books of the Bible and going through them one chapter at a time. They meet downstairs in the Zebra Classroom.

**Study of the Lectionary**, led by Teeta Bahr, is based on the study of the weekly texts. This class is open to all and meets downstairs in the Sacristy.

**Study of God’s Word**, led by Lanelle Rudolph, is on a study journey from Genesis to Revelation. This multi-generational group meets in the Chapel.

**Women’s Bible Study**, led by Vicki Holmig, is studying a nine session video-driven study on 1<sup>st</sup> Peter called, “A Living Hope in Christ”. They share the leader’s role and meet upstairs in Room 201.

**Mary and Martha Class**, led by Sharon Schroeder, is a group of women that meet together to study and provide friendship and support. Studying a Max Lucado video “Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here.” They meet upstairs in Room 220.

**Men’s Class**, led by Brian Taylor, is working through a book titled, Why Men Hate Going to Church. Their hope is to help the young men, husbands, and fathers see the benefits of becoming involved at church. They meet upstairs in Room 210.

**Parents of Toddlers Class**, led by Becky and Stu Toepfich, studies baby/toddler/kid situations that come up during the week. They learn and discuss with other parents living the same situations and meet in the Caterpillar Room beside the Nursery.

**Partners in Faith**, led by David and Liz Doss, studying Romans in Room 202.



## Weekdays

### Family Night Wednesdays 6:15 – 8:00

**Please note there are many changes for the month of December!**

**Please check the website calendar,  
youth calendar or call the church office.**

**Kindergarten – 5th Graders** - CLIMB, led by Tracy Granado, Kelly King, Kay Magness, and Isaiah Granado. The theme is “Treasure Seekers” where kids discover who God is. They will be in Rooms 203, 204, & 209.

**6th, 7th, and 8th Graders** - led by Pastor Chip Reynolds, will be in Confirmation. They will be learning about the Ten Commandments. They will meet in Rooms 225 & 226.

**9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th** - They will meet in the Youth Room.



## Monthly

### Third Thursday of the Month

**SPICE** - led by Lanelle Rudolph in her home at 6:00 p.m., is a women’s group that studies a different book of the Bible each year from the God’s Word for Today Series. They are studying 1st & 2nd Thessalonians in 2017.



## *Board Reports*

### *Board of Christian Ed - Sue Schwab - 830-237-0749*

The Christian Ed Board met and discussed our calendar for the next 3 or 4 months. We discussed the Sunday and weeknight Nursery. We voted to keep trying to hire nursery attendants, but until we do, we will close the nursery for the 8:00 service. We will ask for more nursery volunteers in the bulletin.

### *Board of Congregational Life - Emily Harborth - 830-609-7912*

The Congregational Life board report for December is to thank all of the servants that work so diligently and lovingly and have fun while doing so:

Jeannie Anderson, Carol Schorn, Roylene Haggard, Kay Magness, Leslie Wellbrock, Benno Engel, Mike Garcia, Glenn Wellbrock. Also I would like to thank Pastor Chip for his input at our meetings.

In His Love,

Emily Harborth

### *Board of Personnel- Chip Franck - 830-214-0366*

NOVEMBER 21 2016

The Ministry Review Committee conducted feedback meetings for Pastor Paul & Lanelle Rudolph on November 14. That feedback completes the annual assessment cycle for both.

The Personnel Board continues to respond to issues raised by the Compliance Review. Next major agenda item is updating the Employee Handbook – which will be affected by the Review, among other things.

### *Board of Preschool - Nancy Schlather - 830-609-8344*

Reviewed and made revisions to our continuing resolution

### *Board of Youth and Family – Alison Setser - 210-722-8065*

Opened with prayer on November 7, 2016

- Had recap of service projects, Confirmation and Faith Statement Banquet, budget and Stepping Stones.
- Discussed November & December events which include Enchanted Rock, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Adopt-A-Resident at Kirkwood and Christmas Events.
- Briefly reviewed Bulletin "Simply Numbers" section and the Facility Use form
- Began planning January - May 2017 calendar

Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:00pm

*Board of Evangelism – Paul Henfey - 210-383-6101*

*Board of Public Relations - Phil Moore - 830-832-6067*

*Board of Property - Danny Zunker - 830-221-7673*

*Board of Stewardship – Arlen Pietsch- 830-625-2152*

*Board of Worship – Rod Mueller - 830-606-4097*

## HOSPITALIZATION NOTICES

This is just a reminder to all members to notify the church office when you or a loved one is in the hospital. This is especially important if in Resolute New Braunfels. We have a team of hospital visitors who would love to pay you a visit, as well as include you in our prayers. They will also offer Holy Communion to the patient and family, as requested. Thank you for your cooperation.



# Salvation Army Angels are here!!



The Angel Tree Ministry provides Christmas assistance to families in need in New Braunfels & Comal County. Through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, donors can give joy to a child or senior adult in need during the holiday season. Supported by gifts purchased by members of St. Paul, Angel Tree will enable dozens of local children and senior adults to experience the joy of receiving gifts on Christmas morning.

**There are some changes with the Angel Tree program this year!**

1. The Salvation Army requests that donors spend around \$75 per Child Angel. You may spend less on your Senior Angels.
2. Please DO NOT WRAP the gifts.
3. Return the gifts with the Angel label to St. Paul's church office by Sunday December 11. St. Paul's is tasked to deliver our Angel Tree Gifts to the Salvation Army Monday morning, Dec. 12th.
4. On your Angel label are "gifts" and "needs" listed. The Salvation Army requests that you fill the "needs" 1st and then the "gifts" last if you have any money left. They would like you to purchase multiple items so that the children will have more than 1 or 2 gifts to open up on Christmas morning.



## Red Kettle Campaign

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign for Christmas is fast approaching. Please sign up for a time to be a bell ringer, sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex. Come out and help those less fortunate in our community!



Dave Ramsey's

**Financial Peace**  
UNIVERSITY

## LOOKING FOR FPU GRADS

If you have completed Financial Peace University and are interested in serving as a course facilitator in January, please contact Brad Campbell at (830) 708-6458 or [dvcrocket@hotmail.com](mailto:dvcrocket@hotmail.com).

## HELP WANTED!

If you would be interested in serving as a Communion Preparer or Server please contact the church office at 830-625-9191



We videotape and photograph during worship services and church events. These images may be released online, in video or photo format, or used in publications. If anyone should object, please call the church office at 830-625-9191.



# SANTA'S RANCH

The Congregational Life Board has purchased a season pass for a church van to be used by our church families and small groups to tour Santa's Ranch. The van will hold 14 passengers. There is a sign-up calendar in the Narthex. Santa's Ranch is open November 6 - January 1, Sunday-Thursday 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 6 p.m.-11 p.m. There are many beautiful exhibits of Bible stories in lights! For more information, contact Emily Harborth at (830) 609-7912.

## Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary Thursday, December 8, 7:00 P.M.

Everyone is invited to a free concert performed by the New Braunfels Christian Academy Choir and Band. Their program of songs, hymns, and scripture readings will honor the birth of our Savior.



## Grandmas' Stocking Guild



Grandmas' Stocking Guild was born of Love! In 2009, a widow from a Lutheran church here in New Braunfels wanted to do something to ease the pain of her loss. She contacted the New Life Children's Center and offered to make Christmas stockings for every girl that resided there. She thought there would be maybe 20. The reality was that there were 60 girls! She asked some friends to help and by mid-November all 60 stockings were made. New Life Children's Center expanded to 80 girls in 2010. This group of crafters has made personalized stocking for 80 girls now every year.

In 2014, Grandmas' Stockings was expanded to include children from Hays County too! If you have any questions or would like to help please contact Suzi Casey at 830-708-3621 or Willa Faulkner at 830-609-3974 or visit our website at [www.grandmasstockingguild.org](http://www.grandmasstockingguild.org).



December 2016

## *The LCMC National Convention Report*



The LCMC National Convention in Denver was very informative. I would like for you to see the stats from Dr. Ed Stetzer's keynote speech:

### **The Church in America is Dying**

- no real researcher, anywhere

### **Top Lies/Bad Stats that We Love**

#### **Christians and Divorce**

##### ***Christians get divorced at same rate as everyone else***

- Believers who show up every week (frequent church goers in GSS) were even less likely to divorce:
  - Frequent Evangelicals: 34%
  - Frequent Mainline Protestants: 32%
  - Frequent Catholics: 23%

#### **Christians and Their Disenchanted Youth**

##### ***86% (or 94%) Of Christian Young People Leave the Church***

- 70% of Protestants who attended regularly at least one year in High School will drop out for at least one year between 18-22.
- Not necessarily Christians, evangelicals, nor committed through High School.
- Of those, 35% will return by the time they are 30.
- Among College students:
  - 32% are religious (believe in God, attend services regularly)
  - About 1/3 are spiritual, but not religious
  - 28% consider themselves secular (meaning indifferent to religion)

#### **Real and Wrong Stats**

##### ***The American church is on death's door***

- America remains a remarkably devout nation.
  - Just under 40% claim they go to church weekly.
  - That put the US ahead of Italy, Canada, Britain, France, Russia, and Sweden in worship attendance.
  - Americans are also more religious than Iranians.

#### **Christians and Their Attendance**

##### ***The American church is on death's door***

- More than 136 million Americans – or 44% of the population – belong to a specific Christian congregation.
- Church attendance has remained relatively steady over the last few decades.
- Among college students
  - 32% are religious (believe in God, attend services regularly)
  - About 1/3 are spiritual, but not religious
  - 28% consider themselves secular (meaning indifferent to religion)

Thank you all so much for allowing me to represent you at this very special event.

In His Love,

Emily Harborth  
St. Paul Lutheran National Delegate

# December 2016 Service Calendar

		Sun., Dec. 4	Wed., Dec. 7 6:30pm	Sun., Dec. 11	Sun. Dec. 18	Sat., Dec. 24 5:00pm & 7:30pm	Sun., Dec. 25 9:30am
<b>Altar Guild</b> Vicki Hollmig		Nancy Becker					
<b>Lay Minister</b> Fred Terry		Rodger Johnson		Lanelle Rudolph	Ken Wunderlich	Fred Terry - 5:00pm BJ Hageman - 7:30pm	Chris Markulin
<b>Scripture Readers</b> Margaret Warncke	8:00	Patti MacDonald	Youth	Chris Markulin	John Magness	John Magness 5:00pm	Sandi Owens
	10:30	Susan Syamken		Karen Mims	David Doss	Gilbert Orsak 7:30pm	
<b>Ushers</b> Ed Berich	8:00	Team 14 Reno Engel	Team 13 Bob Warnecke	Team 1 Harvey Borgfeld	Team 1 Harvey Borgfeld	Teams 3 & 5 R. Stollewerk & K. Dornbusch	Team 7 Wayne Graybill
	10:30	Team 13 Bob Warnecke		Team 2 Benno Engel	Team 2 Benno Engel	Teams 4 & 6 K. Wunderlich & P. Finley	
<b>Acolytes</b>	8:00	Alize Martinez	TBD	TBD	Alize Martinez	TBD	TBD
	10:30	Josiah Granado & Kasen Kreuzler		Brooke Lear	Keene Kreuzler & Josiah Granado	TBD	
<b>Audio Tech</b> Greg Schlather	8:00 & 10:30	Paul Luckemeyer	Greg Schlather	David Wagner	Mark Sohn	Joe Clayburne	Rod Mueller
<b>Visual Tech</b> Greg Schlather	8:00	Greg Schlather	Greg Schlather	Greg Schlather	Rod Mueller	Greg Schlather	Rod Mueller
	10:30	Greg Schlather	Greg Schlather	Rodger Johnson		Rod Mueller	
<b>Communion Preparers</b> Pixie Hageman	8:00	Karen & Mary Ann Woody		Danny & Carolyn Zunker		Danny & Carolyn Zunker 5:00pm	Arlen & Josephine Pietsch
	10:30	Arlen & Josephine Pietsch		Pixie Hageman & Jenna Kieke		Pixie Hageman 7:30pm	
<b>Communion Servers</b> Pixie Hageman	8:00	Erna Dietert & Roxanne Duelm		Margaret Warnke & Dottie Hough	Rodger & Barbara Johnson 5:00pm Runners - Roxanne Duelm, Dwayne & Cheryl Koepf		Dottie Hough & Margaret Warnke
	10:30	Paul & Sheri Luckemeyer		Larry & Sue Schwab	Ken & Martha Joyce 7:30pm Runners - Sandra Pfluger & Gail Krueger		
<b>Greeters</b> Liz Doss	8:00	Gail Krueger & Patti MacDonald	Youth	Benny & Carol Schumann	Fritz & Cora Jane Welsch		
	10:30	Benno & Jan Engel		Jerry & Cheryl Hamilton	Dwayne, Cheryl, & Kailey Koepf		
<b>Friendly Visitors</b> Ann Stollewerk		Mark & Mindi Wing	Dwayne & Cheryl Koepf			Fred Terry	
<b>Pew Pals</b> Tracy Granado		The Granado's & Kelly King		Quade Team	Hildy Slocum Team		Willa Faulkner Team
<b>Hospital Visitors</b> Ola Fischer		Dotty Collins & Kathy Lamon		Nancy Becker & M'Lissa Steel	Malcolm & Ola Fischer		Pat & Kathy Quade

# December 2016

\*\*\*\*\*Sundays\*\*\*\*\*  
**8:00am Traditional Service**    **9:30am Covenant Choir**  
**9:15am Sunday School**        **10:00am Cherub Choir**  
**Alleluia Choir**                **10:30am Informal Service**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> COMMUNION **See Box Above** 12:30pm Youth Tree Trim Party 6:30pm Advent by Candlelight	<b>5</b> 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Youth Family Bd 6:30pm Preschool Bd	<b>6</b> 9:00am Quilters 9:00am Memorial Comm 6:00pm Christian Ed Bd 6:30pm Mutual Ministry	<b>7</b> 7:30am Master Craftsmen 6:15pm Climb 6:30pm Advent Service 7:75pm Youth Small Group	<b>8</b> 5:30pm Congregational Life Bd 5:30pm Worship Bd 7:00pm NBKA Christmas Concert	<b>9</b> 7:00am Prayer Group	<b>10</b> 5:00pm Eat Out Friends, Domino Friends Christmas Party (Granzin's)
<b>11</b> **See Box Above** 4:00pm Family Christmas Caroling at St.Martin	<b>12</b> 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Public Relations Bd	<b>13</b> 9:00am Quilters 6:30pm Property Bd 6:30pm Dayschool Christmas Program	<b>14</b> 2:00pm Construction Meet 3:00pm Kirkwood Devo 5:30pm Building Comm 6:30pm Caroling & Christmas Party	<b>15</b> 1:30pm Bridge Friends	<b>16</b> 7:00am Prayer Group 5:00pm High School Progressive Dinner	<b>17</b> 5:00pm Middle School Christmas Party
<b>18</b> COMMUNION **See Box Above** 10:30pm Children's Christmas Program	<b>19</b> 1:30pm Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Evangelism Bd	<b>21</b> 3:00pm Eden Home Devo	<b>22</b> 4:30pm St. Martin Comm	<b>23</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:30am Christmas Day Service (No Sunday</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Stewardship Bd	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00am Prayer Group 5:00pm Fellowship Event-Escape Haus	<b>31</b>



Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - [pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org](mailto:pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org)  
Pastor - Rev. Charles "Chip" Reynolds - [pastorchip@nbstpaul.org](mailto:pastorchip@nbstpaul.org)  
Church Administrator - Lanelle Rudolph - [lanelle@nbstpaul.org](mailto:lanelle@nbstpaul.org)  
Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Burrows - [jennifer@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jennifer@nbstpaul.org)  
Administrative Assistant - Carolyn Zunker - [carolyn@nbstpaul.org](mailto:carolyn@nbstpaul.org)  
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)  
Director of the Preschool - Karisha Neely - [karisha@nbstpaul.org](mailto:karisha@nbstpaul.org)  
Maintenance - Jason Crofford  
Organist - Ann Brown  
CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191  
PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044  
FAX (830) 620-7715  
[www.nbstpaul.org](http://www.nbstpaul.org)

December 2016

*Merry Christmas!*



*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 weekly worship \* Maintain trust & confidence in leadership \* Raise up the next generation of leaders



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