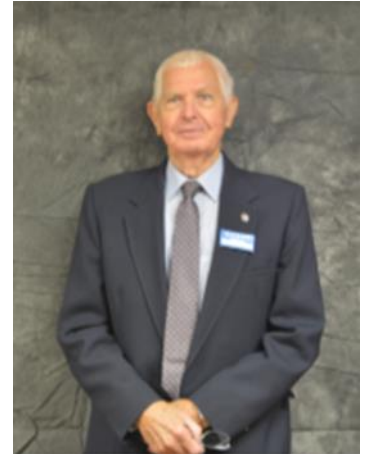


The Epistle

Welcome our newest Disciples!

Theodore Arnst

I was born in 1931 to a Methodist mother and a Lutheran father. I was baptized in 1931 in a Missouri Synod Lutheran church. In 1945, I began study of Luther's Small Catechism. On Palm Sunday of 1946, I and 5 others, had "examination" by our Pastor & the Congregation. This examination involved reciting memorized scriptures that supported our Christian/Lutheran faith. I have been honored and blessed to be elected "Elder" in three different congregations. My baptized wife Helen followed me from Methodism to Lutheranism. Our son and daughter were baptized and confirmed in a Missouri Synod church. My loving wife was taken home to Jesus on June 5, 2016.



Tex & Ann Brown

Tex and Ann Brown live in Garden Ridge for 5 years now having moved here from the Washington DC area. They have attended SPLC since their arrival as Ann is the organist/pianist for the church and Tex sings in the choir, the men's quartet, and teaches one of the men's Sunday School classes. Tex is retired from the USAF (34 years) and also defense contracting work and volunteers for various Christian ministries. Ann has been a counselor, real estate agent, and musician. They have 3 grown kids. Their oldest is Stephanie Hurlbert, an AF Colonel's wife stationed in northern Virginia with 7 children, then Bethany McCarthy, a AF Lt Col and married to an AF Lt Col stationed in Osan AB, Korea with their first child, a daughter of 5 months, and lastly a son, Richie, who is married to his college sweetheart and a middle school science teacher in Harlem NYC, NY. Ann loves tennis, playing the piano, and Bible study and Tex loves to hunt, fish, and play golf.

Dylan Busselman & Courtney Hofer

Dylan and Courtney moved to New Braunfels about a year and a half ago. Dylan recently left work in the oilfield to become a technician and boat mechanic in-training at Tracker Marine here in New Braunfels. Courtney works as an academic advisor at Texas State University while also pursuing a Master's of Education in Student Affairs in Higher Education. For fun, we enjoy boating and fishing, crafting and woodworking, hunting, and other outdoor recreation.





Paul Giese

I'm very happy to be back in a Bible Studying Lutheran Church . I grew up in the Lutheran Church and graduated from TLU class of 81' , married for 27 years to Robin Svoboda-Giese who in August of 2013 went Home to be with Jesus. I'm an Independent Insurance agent in the Employee benefits business with Colonial Life. My twin sister, Jenna Kieke, invited me 2 years ago to be in the choir and I'm grateful that she did. Jonathan is my son and attends Lakeview College in NE San Antonio

George Edward & Leticia "Letty" Gracia

Just think "Thank-You" in Spanish is how our last name is pronounced. We live in San Antonio and are blessed with a son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. Letty is studying to become a teacher. George is a diesel mechanic for Fed Ex Express. We are both animal lovers!



David & Sandy Paulos

Sandy and her husband David (who joined St. Paul a few years ago) have lived in New Braunfels since 1997. All of their children are New Braunfels High School graduates. Their daughter Amanda and her husband Matt, both graduates of Loyola University, live and work in Houston. Their son Danny, a Texas A&M graduate, lives and works in New Braunfels. Their youngest son Dusty is a sophomore at Texas A&M University majoring in Communications & Media Studies and Sports Management. Sandy works as Manager of Treasury for San Antonio Water System (SAWS). David is National Accounts Manager for Master Halco.



Randy & Lou Ann Wallis

Randy and Lou Ann Wallis have been married since 2000. At that time they had 7 children between them ranging in age from 12 to 20. Between them they have 11 grandchildren. They own a roofing company, TMCS, LLC, which keeps Randy busy. Lou Ann is in private practice as a licensed professional counselor here in New Braunfels. They also help to run the family ranch in Llano county, which takes them out of town two weekends a month. They enjoy time with family and friends, hunting & traveling.





Jesica, Emma and Ella Wolter

My girls and I live in New Braunfels. Emma is in 5th grade and Ella is in 1st grade at Clear Spring Elementary school. I am a 2002 graduate of Texas A&M University and am currently enjoying my role as a stay-at-home-mom after recently being laid off from my job of 9 years. In January, I look forward to marrying Wes Zunker and gaining two precious children to call my own, Mackenzey and Ryan Zunker. Our lives are full and richly blessed by our Lord and we are so very thankful. Thank you, members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, for being so welcoming! We look forward to being a part of the church family.

DAVE RAMSEY'S

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

Beginning January 15th, 2017

Class Schedules

Sunday mornings at 8:45am - Sandi Owens

Sunday mornings at 9:15am - Lisa Schmidt

Monday evenings at 6:30pm - Ann Brown

Tuesday mornings at 10:00am - Roxanne Ware

Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm - Phillip Moore

Thursday evenings at 6:30pm - Tex Brown

Questions call the church office at 830-625-9191

To register go to www.nbstpaul.org

Frequently asked questions about der Elefant (Momentum)

- What are we doing? We are *shifting* the way we as a congregation **teach** and **live out** Biblical stewardship. This is not just a “new program”, it is a *shift*. (when you get new furniture or a new car, or go from middle school to high school that is a “new program.” When you get married or have a baby, that is a *shift*☺).
- How will this all work? The main tool we are using to help us *shift* is Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University course. This is a 9 week, biblical course that teaches people how to manage money, God’s way. Each session is 90 minutes long. FPU is designed for couples, but individuals may participate also. The cost is \$100 per family; upon completion of the course you will receive a \$20 cash rebate. Learn more at: www.daveramsey.com
- Why should I participate? That’s a great question, one you have to answer by listening honestly to the Lord and humbling yourself. Here’s how some have answered: “To be an example and help others.” “Because even though I won’t admit it, we pretty much live paycheck-to-paycheck.” “Because our congregation has a vision to help families follow Jesus and this course helps them do just that.” “Where my treasure is, there my heart will be also. If I’m undisciplined with money, that really means my heart is undisciplined.” “To encourage others.”
- How will this affect our current programs? Most of our programs and relationships (small groups, Sunday School classes) will continue, but the **content** will *shift to a Financial Peace based curriculum*. Some programs – like “Breaking Bread” and the Women’s Retreat will pause for 9 weeks to focus on this. Your existing small group or Sunday School class is encouraged to use FPU as your curriculum for the nine weeks. Our desire and prayer is that our whole congregational family will focus on God’s ways for handling money. We’re in this together.
- When will this happen? FPU Courses will start January 15, 2017 and run for 9 weeks. The course will be offered on multiple days of the week, including Sunday mornings. Pastor Paul and Pastor Chip will also preach a 6 week sermon series beginning on January 8.
- Where will classes and events be held? On our campus, 181 South Santa Clara.
- What will be different after der Elefant (Momentum)? That’s another great question; and the answer depends on how in-tune we are with the Lord. Hopefully we will no longer be uptight or afraid to speak about money. We will have a common culture and common language of Biblical stewardship. We will understand that God owns it ALL and we are his managers, called to use it his way for his glory. Hopefully, parents will have the money elephant off their back and be more available to each other and their children. Additionally, the average couple who completes the course and implements the teaching will experience an \$8,000 positive change in their financial position within the first 6 months. (An \$8,000 return on an \$80 investment... that’s pretty good☺).

Der Elefant is German for “the elephant.” For many people, the elephant in the room is finances and debt. 70% of our community lives paycheck to paycheck; on top of that another 14% are broke, not making ends meet... that’s 84% of our community living with a big elephant in their living room.

*Paul Owens, Senior Pastor***On our knees is a GREAT place to start...**

There is an old hymn that's not flashy or fun, but it is solid and simple:

*“With the Lord begin your task;
Jesus will direct it.
For his aid and counsel ask;
Jesus will perfect it.”*



The task, indeed the **mission** that the Lord Jesus has given you and me is to be **his witnesses**: *“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. The best way to begin our mission of being Christ's witnesses is on our knees in prayer. Indeed, it is through prayer that the Lord takes imperfect people like you and me and uses us **perfectly** as his witnesses.

Our attitude toward prayer has often been characterized by saying, “well, all we can do now is pray!” Prayer is not the hopeless act of desperation. Prayer is the gift that God has given to us as the means to approach his throne of grace with confidence—like a child coming to her parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats and every part of life. The Lord himself has promised to hear us... to hear our joys and frustrations... and to direct our witness.

I ask you to begin 2017 with me on our knees in prayer... three particular days of prayer... prayer for **repentance, petition, and fulfillment of our vision**; January 3, 4, and 5. On Christmas Eve you received a [brochure](#) that is both a guide to these three days AND your invitation to a special prayer service on **Tue, January 3rd at 5:30 p.m.** I hope you will come to that service so we can pray together; but whether you can come or not, I hope even more that you will join me over those three days on your knees in prayer. On Sunday morning, January 1 at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services we will distribute guide booklets for these 3 days of prayer. For an electronic version, [click here](#)

The hope of the world is the local church, on our knees and rising up. God's plan to redeem New Braunfels, Texas, and the ends of the earth is his witnesses... you and me and Christian congregations near and far. Let's begin our witness this year on our knees, trusting the Lord to keep his promise.

Praying with and for you,

Pastor Paul

Phase 1 Capital Campaign Update

As of **December 18, 2016** we have received **\$765,364** toward Phase 1 of our facility expansion and renovation. Praise God; we are so grateful! By the end of April, our target is to receive \$234,636 more, for a total of \$1 million in gifts. This would put us in great shape with a very conservative monthly payment on our loan. Please pray and consider giving.

Chip Reynolds, Pastor

What a difference a year makes?

A year ago we were just arriving in New Braunfels and looking at the exciting, but daunting task of serving St. Paul as your new Pastor. I can say that it was not all excitement as there was a little fear mixed into the formula.

This past year has been amazing and gut-wrenching all at the same time. I have had great successes with you as well as my share of failures. My personality is to fixate on the mishaps and mistakes, and not see the positives. I want everything to be perfect, to go smoothly, and for everyone to be happy. If that is the standard...then I have failed miserably.

I think we all have a little of that in us though. We tend toward the things that we didn't do well. We look at the flaws instead of the beauty. We turn that into worry and we lose focus on the real important things.

Satan is an absolutely phenomenal tactician when it comes to attacking the saints. Scripture says that he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. And it doesn't necessarily have to be in broad daylight when we can cause self-inflicted wounds in the darkness.

That sets us up for a challenge.

This year I am going to look for the good in each and every day. I am not going to allow Satan to worm his way into my day, my life, my ministry. I am going to patiently wait for the plans that God has for me and I am going to rejoice in them.

That is my challenge to you as well. What will happen if we all approach life from that point of view? Everyone will not be out to get us. Everyone will not be trying to destroy the work that we are doing. Suddenly, our end goal is the same. To rejoice in Christ for the great things He has done. Let's give it a shot.

New Year's Resolution?

NO! Commitment to God's truth in our lives. Happy 2017.

HOLD the DATE – WOMENS' RETREAT

March 24- 26, 2017

Registration begins January 15

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak" ... John 16:13

**BIBLE BLESSINGS-FAITHFUL FELLOWSHIP
AMAZING ACCOMMODATIONS-FABULOUS FOOD**

January 2017

Fred Terry, Congregation President

Greetings, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

Happy New Year and blessings to you and yours with my prayers that it will be your greatest year in your Christian Life!!



This month, St. Paul is embarking on one of the best learning adventures of our 90 year history. Financial Peace University with the leadership of Dave Ramsey and our own Dr. Eric Schmidt and a cast of many will begin classes on January 15th providing six different times of the same class each week for nine weeks. If you cannot make your class, you can come to a later one in the week or if you know you will not make your class, you can come to an earlier one to stay on track. I took the class last summer and I tell you that you will know volumes of information more than when you started. It is our calling from God Himself to be stewards of all our gifts: Time, Talents, and Treasures. FPU will give you the tools to a better financial health!

Now that the Christmas Celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior is over, as we take down the décor of the season and say good bye to the family and friends that had come to visit, let us not forget the Church as so many do. Come and join us for all the events through the year. The celebrations, the learning experiences, the joining in with projects around the campus and the visits off campus. The Church is here for you year round. I am personally blessed as Church is not a place to go to, but a family to belong to. Remember that on the third Monday of each month, if you are so inclined to join us, your St. Paul Congregation Council Meeting begins at 7:00pm. There are many other more entertaining events going on at St. Paul besides the Council Meeting, make a plan to join in somewhere! Check out the website: www.nbstpaul.org for all that is St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Every day that I arrive at the St. Paul Campus, I see something new going on and finishing up in the Construction Phase of our Master Plan. It has been a long adventure for me personally, beginning this drive to make our structures strong, safe, functional, and inviting; over the last fifteen years. So many folks over those years have been a part of the process. As we grow closer and closer to the finish date, I remember the struggles we have gone through to provide the Congregation with an acceptable finished product. I hope and pray that we all are proud of what has been accomplished and that we continue to thank and praise our Father in heaven for giving us the ability to follow the path He has laid before us.

There is a movement going on in our Congregation that is led by our brother Chuck Knudson. He is leading our Nominating Committee in the search of leadership positions for St. Paul. He has led us in Prayer Services for Leadership on several Tuesdays over the past couple months. He and his team are prayerfully gathering for filling positions that will open on the St. Paul Congregation Council for election in June at the Annual Congregation Meeting. Pray for these folks as this is not a simple task and help them through their process.

Last month, we welcomed fourteen (14) new members to St. Paul. We are certainly blessed to have had so many folks joining us in the Learning and Worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If you know someone that is in the search of the Word, invite them to a Sunday Service or a Bible Study. We are all happy to receive those in search!

The Bible say, *“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”* Proverbs 19:17. We have developed a lifestyle of giving, especially to the poor, and surprisingly, that which we sow comes back to us exponentially. We must be faithful with what we have, then God will trust us with more.

Lord, lift my eyes, lighten my step and brighten my heart.

Looking forward to seeing each and every one of you around the Campus!

Your brother in Christ, **Fred**

Our Sympathy to

John Gatz on the death of his brother,
Robert "Bob" Gatz.

Pastor Danny and Janet Koenig on the death of
his sister, Mavis Greif.

Steve and Judi Chapman on the death of her
brother, Mike Grahan.

James & Leola Stolte on the death of his brother,
Kenneth Stolte.

Kelly Pfluger on the death of her mother,
Constance E. Zoboroski.

January Flowers

January 1 Shanna Mezik

January 8 Open

January 15 Open

January 22 Open

January 29 Open

WE'RE ALMOST THERE

Things not to do on an Elevator

Going into the Phase I Facilities Construction and Renovation Project, we knew there would be challenges. And we've had some. Despite a relatively dry year, rains came at very inconvenient times. Rains delayed the concrete pour for our new walkway and then hindered the installation of our new roof. We've had some logistical delays with the city. And of course, the passing of Johnny Friesenhahn slowed progress on the project for a time.

But by the grace of God, there has not been any major setbacks to the project. Delays? Yes. Real problems? No. We will have a final completion date soon. For now though all the Building Commission can say is that the project will come to completion sometime after the first of the year.

Here is one thing I can report with a fair amount of certainty. The elevator is scheduled to be installed between Christmas and New Years. So I think it's time we got up to speed on our elevator etiquette.

DO NOT:

Say DING at every floor.

Make explosion sounds every time someone presses a button.

Tap the person in front of you on the shoulder and then pretend it wasn't you.

Make MEOW sounds to break the silence.

And remember...we're Lutherans. So never announce "GROUP HUG" and then attempt to enforce it.

As I close here I'll report that the project is on budget. What's not on budget is our Capital Campaign. Giving has lagged behind our pledged amounts. If God is whispering something in your ear about our facilities project, consider listening to Him.

God's Peace,

Bryan Baese

Construction Communication Committee Chair

The Report Card - Karisha Neely Director

Last month was amazing! We closed out the year with supporting 7 children and 1 elderly through the angel tree program. This was possible with the offering brought each week by the children to Chapel on Wednesday mornings. We provided clothes, shoes, coats, toys, art supplies, towels and more.



Our wonderful teachers and support staff spent a Sunday afternoon painting pottery at Clay Casa. Some much-needed laughs and fellowship and we have some talented artist among us.



Already a warm and fuzzy time of year but seeing and hearing our preschool children at the altar for the Christmas Program just melts the heart of all. The children did a fantastic job and sang beautiful praises.



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 Kreuzler 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 1st 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. They will be starting a Bible study on 1,2,3 John. They meet upstairs in Room 220.

Men’s Class, led by Brian Taylor, is studying the Book of Luke. They meet upstairs in Room 210.

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



Weekdays

Family Night Wednesdays 6:15 – 8:00

Begins again January 11th, 2017. 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.

January 2017 Service Calendar

		Sun., Jan.1	Sun., Jan. 8	Sun., Jan. 15	Sun., Jan. 22	Sun., Jan. 29
Altar Guild Vicki Hollmig		Sandra Pfluger & Kathy Quade				
Lay Minister Fred Terry		Paul Finley	Rod Mueller	Rodger Johnson	Lanelle Rudolph	Kenneth Wunderlich
Scripture Readers Margaret Warncke	8:00	Emily Guerra	Pat Quade	Kathy Quade	Susan Montgomery	Pat Quade
	10:30	M'Lissa Steel	Jason Lear	Lynn Lear	Marj Polay	Chip Franck
Ushers Ed Berich	8:00	Team 9 Joe Setser	Team 9 Joe Setser	Team 11 Ralph Behrend	Team 11 Ralph Behrend	Team 13 Bob Warnecke
	10:30	Team 10 Victor Granado	Team 10 Victor Granado	Team 12 Ed Berich	Team 12 Ed Berich	Team 14 Reno Engel
Acolytes	8:00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	10:30	Jack Bloxsom & Beck Hudson	Jack Bloxsom	TBD	Alize Martinez	TBD
Audio Tech Greg Schlather	8:00 & 10:30	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Visual Tech Greg Schlather	8:00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	10:30	TBD	TBD	TBD	YBD	TBD
Communion Preparers Pixie Hageman	8:00	Patty MacDonald & Roxanne Duelm		Rusty & M'Liss Brockman		
	10:30	Marj Polay & Laverne Kruckmeyer		Ken & Martha Joyce		
Communion Servers Pixie Hageman	8:00	Stewart & Kristee Wirebaugh		Anne Blankinship & Sharon Schroeder		
	10:30	Marilyn Paliani & Chris Markulin		Ginger Dicker & Ola Fischer		
Greeters Liz Doss	8:00	Harvey & Erna Haas	Bob & Cheryl Warnecke	Craig & Vicki Hollmig	Dottie Hough & Margaret Warncke	Donn Kiser & Carolyn Zunker
	10:30	Korvan & Jill Kruesler	Laverne Kruckemeyer & Alice Oberkamp	Dan & Becky Krueger	Jason & Lynn Lear	Suzi Casey & Carol Schorn
Friendly Visitors Ann Stollewerk		Fred Terry	Nolan & Erna Dietert		Dan & Beck Krueger	
Pew Pals Tracy Granado		Dina Dornburg	Dale & Julie Goos	The Granado's & Kelly King	Quade Team	Hildy Slocum Team
Hospital Visitors Ola Fischer		Nancy Becker & M'Lissa Steel	Malcolm & Ola Fischer	Pat & Kathy Quade	Dotty Collins & Kathy Lamon	Nancy Becker & M'Lissa Steel

*****Sundays*****
8:00am Traditional Service
9:30am Covenant Choir 1
10:00am Cherub Choir
Alleluia Choir
10:30am Informal Service

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION **See above**	2	3 9:00am Quilters 9:00am Memorial Com 5:30pm 3 Days of Prayer	4 7:30am Mastercraftsmen 2:00pm Construction Meeting 6:15pm Youth Bingo at Kirkwood Day 2 of Prayer	5 1:30pm Bridge Friends 6:00pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Mutual Ministry Day 3 of Prayer	6 7:00am Prayer Group	7
8 **See above**	9 1:30pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Personnel Bd 6:30pm Public Relations 6:30pm Youth & Family	10 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Mah Jongg 4:00pm Executive Comm 6:30pm Property Board	11 3:00pm Kirkwood Devo 5:30pm Building Comm 6:15pm Family Night 6:30pm Choir	12 5:30pm Worship Board	13 7:00am Prayer Group 5:00pm Eat Out Friends	14
15 COMMUNION **See above** 8:45am FPU 9:15am FPU	16 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm FPU 7:00pm Council Meeting	17 9:00am Quilters 10:00am FPU 6:30pm FPU 7:00pm Evangelism	18 2:00pm Construction Meeting 3:00pm Eden Home 6:15pm Family Night 6:30pm Choir	19 10:00am Crocheters' 1:30 Bridge Friends 6:00pm SPICE 6:30pm FPU	20 7:00am Prayer Group	21
22 **See above** 8:45am FPU 9:15am FPU 11:30am Youth Trash Pick-up	23 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm FPU	24 9:00am Quilters 10:00am FPU 1:30pm Mah Jongg 6:30pm FPU 7:00pm Stewardship Bd	25 5:30pm Building Comm 6:15pm Family Night 6:30pm Choir	26 4:30pm St. Martin Comm 6:30pm FPU	27 7:00am Prayer Group	28 6:00pm Domino Friends (Granzin's)
29 **See above** 8:45am FPU 9:15am FPU	30 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm FPU	31 9:00am Quilters 10:00am FPU 6:30pm FPU				

St. Paul's Joyful December



Youth Tree Trimming Party



Advent by Candlelight



Family Christmas Caroling at St. Martin



Neighborhood Christmas Caroling & Party

We delivered the love of Jesus in song and homemade cookies to 35 families in our neighborhood. Caroling & Christmas fellowship was a big success!



Children's Christmas Program

St. Martin Committee

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, thank you for attending the Dec 11 caroling service at St. Martin. 59 believers gathered in our historic church and worshipped together. We sang hymns celebrating the coming of God's child and we read together the prophecies fortelling this event.

Afterwards we enjoyed the great weather, cool, damp and dreary, perfect for this event! Most attendees were convinced to stay and have a cookie and a cup of hot cider. There were also many intrepid explorers visiting the graves and viewing the fachwerk walls.

Believe it or not, 59 bodies is not the maximum for St. Martin. There was definitely room on the front row for you and your family next year! Funny enough, the back rows were filled to capacity.

Thank you so much for celebrating this beautiful building with us. Check out the various facebook pages for pictures of the decorated interior.

Have a meaningful and spiritual Christmas,
Sincerely,
St. Martin Committee

JANUARY 2016 Youth Calendar

Wed. Jan. 4		NO lesson for CLIMB, middle school and high school youth will participate in SERVICE PROJECT – Bingo at Kirkwood from 6:30-8:00pm for all 6th-12th grade youth and Guides. Meet at church at 6:15pm . BE ON TIME. Depart via church vans at 6:22pm . Will return by 8:00pm . Please bring stuffed animals.
Wed. Jan. 11	6:30pm	CLIMB begins and middle school and high school begin.
Wed. Jan. 18	6:30pm	CLIMB, Middle school and high school will meet.
Sun. Jan. 22	11:30am	Trash Pick-up after 2nd service – Sign-up Genius will be available beginning early Jan.
Wed. Jan. 25	6:30pm	CLIMB, Middle school and high school will meet.

**Thank you to the Congregation**

The Youth and Family Board would like to thank the congregation for assisting with our events in November and December :

We had several adults and youth help with the carving of turkeys for the Community Wide Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 23. St. Paul members carved approximately 39 turkeys out of a total of 100 in a 2 hour period. St. Paul also contributed over 100 placemats to the dinner which were created by the hands of our younger members in the Preschool and CLIMB programs. Thank you everyone for your support and assistance in taking the ministry outside the walls of St. Paul.

We would like to thank everyone that adopted a poinsettia for Christmas as our Sanctuary was beautifully adorned with red poinsettias during the Advent season.

We also want to express our gratitude to the following families for hosting events at their homes in December, so the youth could have great fellowship time. Jason and Lynn Lear, Brian and Betty Taylor, Mark and Mindi Wing and Byron and Alison Setser. Thank you parents for your willingness to support the youth program at St. Paul.

Music Ministry - Jody Noblett Director of Music & Creative

- 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 - Pastor Chip Reynolds
- 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





The 13th Annual St. Paul Lutheran Church Wild Game Dinner



The 13th annual St. Paul Lutheran Church Wild Game Dinner is fast approaching. The event was started 13 years ago as a fellowship opportunity for the men of St. Paul. It has grown over the 13 years into a fellowship opportunity for the community annually serving upwards of 700 St. Paul members and visitors alike.

What is the Wild Game Dinner: The Wild Game Dinner is a family event focused on fun and fellowship while spreading the word of Jesus Christ through raising funds for the church's youth activities and various outreach programs in the community.

What is the Purpose of the Wild Game Dinner: The Wild Game Dinner's main focus is to provide fellowship within St. Paul membership while exposing those in the community to the great things the Lord is doing through its St. Paul disciples. The event is also the fund raiser for the St. Paul youth and is the single fundraising outreach to the community for St. Paul Church.

When and Where is the Event: The 13th Annual St. Paul Lutheran Church Wild Game Dinner will be held on March 11, 2017, at the New Braunfels Community and Civic Center in New Braunfels, Texas.

What Happens During the Event: In addition to the great fellowship, the event includes: dinner with a wide variety of wild game and **non-game items**, live and silent auctions, a drawing featuring a custom built rifle, and a dance featuring live music by local country artist Bret Graham. This year there will be a focus on proving activities for kids to provide fun for all ages.

What Happens to the Proceeds: The benefactors are updated annually. The St. Paul youth always get a share with the rest updated annually. The number of benefactors is limited to improve the size of the donation.

The 2017 Wild Game Dinner net proceeds will be distributed equally among:

- ♦ **Youth Ministry** – supports youth programs, including summer camps, mission trips, VBS and more
- ♦ **New Life Children's Center** - a residential treatment center for severely troubled girls ages 11 – 17
- ♦ **Cross Trails Outfitters** - a Christian-based youth outdoors program
- ♦ **Trinity Oaks** - an outdoors experience for veterans, youth, terminally ill, and persons with disabilities
- ♦ **The Gabriel Project** - a crisis pregnancy counseling and assistance program
- ♦ **Communities in Schools** - provides support to help students stay in school and succeed in life
- ♦ **Texas Outdoor C.H.I.L.D.** - provides hunting, fishing and outdoor adventures to youngsters between 8 and 20 years old that have experienced a life altering medical incident

How Can You Help: You can help by getting involved, purchasing tickets, donating time or items, and most important inviting friends. For question you can contact the church office, a committee member, or Lance and/ or Garth Bielke

St. Paul Church Office

(830) 625-9191

Lance Bielke, Chairman

lbielke@gmail.com

(210) 508-8393

Garth Bielke, Co-Chairman

garth.bielke@minigrip.com

(830) 305-1812

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2016
Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 11 NOVEMBER
SUMMARY

Description	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	Over/(Under)
			November	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Budget
Administrative and Office	\$ 37,986.67	\$ 39,444.00	\$ 4,379.41	\$ 36,380.75	\$ 34,347.82	\$ 36,380.75	\$ 34,347.82	\$ 36,380.75	\$ (2,032.93)
Christian Education	\$ 10,310.97	\$ 12,720.00	\$ 504.17	\$ 12,231.65	\$ 5,884.31	\$ 12,231.65	\$ 5,884.31	\$ 12,231.65	\$ (6,347.34)
Congregational Life	\$ 13,694.70	\$ 17,600.00	\$ 783.51	\$ 16,337.50	\$ 8,799.91	\$ 16,337.50	\$ 8,799.91	\$ 16,337.50	\$ (7,537.59)
Evangelism	\$ 5,689.67	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 383.39	\$ 3,575.00	\$ 2,211.29	\$ 3,575.00	\$ 2,211.29	\$ 3,575.00	\$ (1,363.71)
* Finance Committee	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 8,333.33	\$ 91,666.67	\$ 91,666.63	\$ 91,666.67	\$ 91,666.63	\$ 91,666.67	\$ (0.04)
Personnel	\$ 431,689.90	\$ 504,338.00	\$ 39,462.59	\$ 464,237.84	\$ 439,892.63	\$ 464,237.84	\$ 439,892.63	\$ 464,237.84	\$ (24,345.21)
** Preschool (expenses only - see income below)	\$ 481,931.58	\$ 501,913.17	\$ 40,668.17	\$ 459,842.02	\$ 470,468.57	\$ 459,842.02	\$ 470,468.57	\$ 459,842.02	\$ 10,626.55
Property	\$ 100,250.63	\$ 113,301.00	\$ 6,741.13	\$ 104,282.24	\$ 76,650.60	\$ 104,282.24	\$ 76,650.60	\$ 104,282.24	\$ (27,631.64)
Public Relations	\$ 6,483.12	\$ 6,860.00	\$ 579.00	\$ 6,405.00	\$ 7,137.00	\$ 6,405.00	\$ 7,137.00	\$ 6,405.00	\$ 732.00
*** Stewardship	\$ 83,251.27	\$ 91,626.00	\$ 5,004.13	\$ 83,990.50	\$ 63,545.46	\$ 83,990.50	\$ 63,545.46	\$ 83,990.50	\$ (20,445.04)
Worship	\$ 11,747.34	\$ 15,930.00	\$ 685.00	\$ 14,415.00	\$ 10,756.72	\$ 14,415.00	\$ 10,756.72	\$ 14,415.00	\$ (3,658.28)
Youth & Family	\$ 1,661.08	\$ 10,640.00	\$ -	\$ 10,328.33	\$ 10,468.96	\$ 10,328.33	\$ 10,468.96	\$ 10,328.33	\$ 140.63
SPENDING TOTALS	\$ 1,284,696.93	\$ 1,418,172.17	\$ 107,523.83	\$ 1,303,692.50	\$ 1,221,829.90	\$ 1,303,692.50	\$ 1,221,829.90	\$ 1,303,692.50	\$ (81,862.60)
General Offerings	\$ 831,262.88	\$ 915,017.17	\$ 55,557.88	\$ 762,514.31	\$ 694,390.16	\$ 762,514.31	\$ 694,390.16	\$ 762,514.31	\$ (68,124.15)
Preschool Income	\$ 544,039.74	\$ 503,155.00	\$ 40,303.40	\$ 462,495.00	\$ 481,889.81	\$ 462,495.00	\$ 481,889.81	\$ 462,495.00	\$ 19,394.81
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,375,302.62	\$ 1,418,172.17	\$ 95,861.28	\$ 1,225,009.31	\$ 1,176,279.97	\$ 1,225,009.31	\$ 1,176,279.97	\$ 1,225,009.31	\$ 48,767.40
NET MINISTRY PROCEEDS	\$ 90,605.69		\$ (11,662.55)		\$ (45,549.93)		\$ (45,549.93)		

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.

Board Reports

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

December 6, 2016 5:00p.m

- After opening with prayer, the board discussed the qualifications for a nursery attendant. We voted that for the Sunday morning nursery, the attendant did not need to meet all the qualifications of the Preschool workers. We voted to hire Karah McGlothlin, a sixteen year old, to begin at the starting salary of \$10.00, on Dec. 18th. She would meet with Karisha Neely to fill out paper work.
- Christmas Program practice will be after 10:30 service on the 11th. On the 18th, there will be no Sunday school so the children could practice for the program to be held on the 18th at 10:30.
- The Christian Ed Board is responsible for the snacks and drinks after the Dec. 7th Advent service.
- CLIMB will begin again on Jan. 11 – Feb. 22 and continue April 19- May 17th. The theme for this session will be the Dave Ramsey Momentum.
- The choir program for 3rd-5th grade was then discussed. Sue will speak with Jody and Rod about this.
- After closing in prayer, we decided not to meet in January.

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

The Congregational Life Board met on Dec. 8, 2016.

- We took a trip through Santa's Ranch and came back to church for fellowship.
- We approved the minutes of the last meeting.
- We provided refreshments for the "carolers" on Wednesday Dec. 14th. God gave us beautiful weather for the evening of sharing Jesus' love and cookies with our neighbors!
- This month, I would like to feature our Bereavement ministry. We provide a reception for funerals which involves decorating, preparing food, hosting, and cleaning up afterwards. We have been blessed with some of the most dedicated, caring and wonderful ladies serving in this ministry for many years. Thank you so much! We are in need of more people to help in this area of ministry. If you would like to help in any way, please call Carol Schorn at 830-620-9423.

God bless all of you and grant you a blessed New Year!

In His Love,
Emily

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

The Personnel Board did not meet in December, due to the Advent Season. It continues to work on issues related to the Compliance Review. We expect to have more proposals for Council approval at it's January meeting.

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

- New Tips were purchased for the blue chairs
- New LED spotlights for the Sanctuary were purchased and installed

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

The December meeting of the Youth and Family board opened in prayer at 6:40pm.

- All 2016 payments are due by Dec. 31. This includes fees from 2016 Camp Eagle, Youth Gathering, Confirmation robes/stoles/banquet dinner and Slumber Falls camp.
- Recap of November events (ie. Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Poinsettia fund raiser).
- Discussed December activities and made final decisions regarding these events.
- Began organizing and discussing the proposed Jan. - May 2017 calendar.
- Camp Eagle 2017 monthly payments are being accepted now.

Next meeting of the board will be Mon. Jan. 9 at 6:30pm.

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

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

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

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

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



Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth

Live on Purpose

“How many souls have you won for Christ?” That question was recently posed by one of our pastors to a group of colleagues to begin what ended up being a very lively conversation on evangelism and discipleship. This question is not often discussed by Lutherans and the terminology tends to make us a bit uncomfortable. In our good Lutheran theology, we understand that a person coming to Christ does not happen apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, so we tend therefore to not see ourselves as responsible for such a victory. But it made me wonder if the same thinking might have led many of us to forget that we do have a responsibility as followers of Jesus. In Acts 1:8, Jesus sends his disciples with the command to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. And while we don’t have the power to “bring” someone to faith, we do have a role to play in others coming to Jesus.

I believe the key for most of us is we need pause and think about living our lives for a greater purpose. As followers of Jesus, we have a calling to live with an intentionality in our relationships. Each relationship represents the opportunity to bear witness to Christ and the grace and mercy that our Lord and Savior has given his life for.

And it can be as simple as paying closer attention to the people that God has already brought into your life. Think for a moment about all of the people that you know that you don’t know about their faith lives. Don’t know any non-believers? Then get to know some. Begin with your neighbors or co-workers, or start befriending employees of businesses you frequent. We can all do a better job of befriending the 85+% of the population who don’t attend worship in a week!

Next, pray to God for opportunities to love these people with a Christ-like love. Pray for open doors to begin spiritual conversations. And don’t forget that we believe in a God that can transform lives, so be sure to include those people who you might first write off as lost causes. We cannot forget that we ourselves are our own lost causes in need of God’s grace just as much as the next person!

Not sure what to say? Get some help. Be sure to turn to God in prayer for the words and don’t be afraid to ask others for help. Talk with your pastor and other brothers and sisters in Christ for ideas on how to share the Gospel. I highly recommend Bill Hybel’s book, *Just Walk Across the Room*, as a guide to relational evangelism. But most of all, make a commitment to God and yourself to live your life with a greater intentionality and purpose: to be a witness for Christ in all of your relationships. While it is indeed by God’s grace and power that anyone comes to faith in Jesus, as his followers we also have a responsibility and therefore we share in the joy of victory of souls won for Christ!

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District. Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org. Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/lcmctexas.

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Pastor - Rev. Charles "Chip" Reynolds - pastorchip@nbstpaul.org.
Church Administrator - Lanelle Rudolph - lanelle@nbstpaul.org
Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Burrows - jennifer@nbstpaul.org
Administrative Assistant - Carolyn Zunker - carolyn@nbstpaul.org
Bookkeeper/Controller - Stacy Garcia - stacy@nbstpaul.org
Director of Music & Creative Arts - Jody Noblett - jody@nbstpaul.org
Director of the Preschool - Karisha Neely - karisha@nbstpaul.org
Maintenance - Jason Crofford
Organist - Ann Brown

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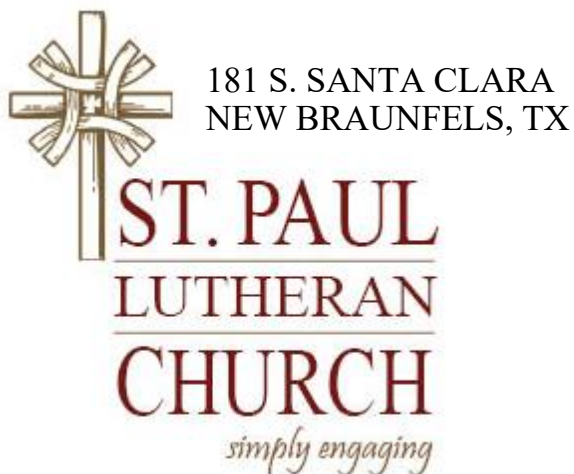


January 2017



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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Happy New Year!!!

MEMBER LCMC

