

# The Epistle



## Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

What to do with unbelievers?

Far too often, Christians, especially those of us have been Christians for a long time, become unsure, even uncomfortable when we interact with our neighbors and family members who don't believe Jesus. What to do? What to say? Varied levels of response present themselves as options to our troubled hearts: avoidance, judgment, staring at our own shoes or talking about the weather... anything, but stepping onto that narrow, hard road that leads to life.

Thomas was a real live skeptic. He knew Jesus, but swore he would never believe again. "He said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'" (John 20:25). Instead of avoiding Thomas or running away, Jesus did the opposite: he came right to him; sought him out even behind locked doors! Jesus simply, lovingly engaged Thomas directly at the point of his unbelief. He first said to him "Peace be with you. Then he said "Here, Thomas, put your finger here and put your hand in my side...see that I am real and I am for you."

Recently, I spent some extended time with a second cousin. We haven't seen each other in years, but there is enough blood and shared experience between us to make a bit of a relationship. He was expressing his skepticism and described himself as agnostic. I asked him, "tell me what you are skeptical about?..."

Read Pastor Paul's article in it's entirety at: <http://www.nbstpaul.org/articles/>



## Children's Ministry

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.  
- Proverbs 22:6

The Preschool is enjoying a very busy Spring season. We have completed our Summer and Fall registration process and only have a few openings left. The Preschool is thriving, and we would love for more people to be involved!

We appreciate our "Grand Friend Readers" that come to the preschool weekly and read bible stories to the children. We would like to expand the program into the "Great Friends Sharing" group and have volunteers help the children learn about languages such as German and Spanish, be exposed to different types of music and instruments, learn about helping the community and try out a variety of sports. Let us know if you are interested in sharing your time with Preschool.

We have an active Family Partnership Group which is working to expand the playground and build new features to enhance learning. This includes planting garden boxes, creating a hill for a fun toddler challenge and planting grass. We are working with local businesses and families on donations.

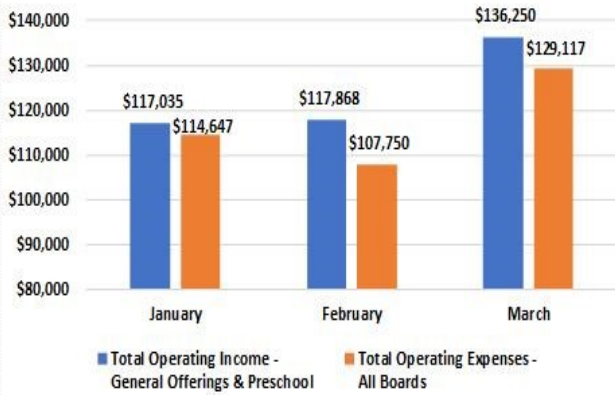
Puppets, Sand Stories, Vacation Bible School, and the Preschool are all ways we are bringing the gospel to young children and families. Would you like to be involved and support these ministries? Do you have a high school or college student who has a little extra time on their hands this summer? Please contact the Church office for more details on the specific programs.



*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

### 2018 - Income Versus Expenses



### *New Special Gift Category*

The Stewardship Board and Congregation Council have approved a new Special Gift Category entitled "Hurricane Harvey Mini Mission Projects." As a result of our "on the ground" presence since the hurricane, we have established some very close relationships with members of the Austwell community in Refugio County. The needs here are considerable as many families are still displaced from their homes and awaiting assistance for completion of major repairs such as roofing, flooring, drywall, etc. If you feel called to help, you may do so through a monetary donation or putting "boots on the ground" and signing up to join a mini-mission group traveling to the area. Monetary donations should designate that the funds are to be used for "Hurricane Harvey Mini Mission Projects."



Working on Max's roof.

### *Mini-Mission Trips*

Our next mini-mission trip is scheduled for May. Please contact Liz Doss at (830) 237-3280 or lizd9094@yahoo.com for more information about specific dates. Donations are also greatly needed in order to assist in the rebuilding process. You can make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and note in the memo "Hurricane Harvey Mini Mission Projects".



Max's new roof.

### *Lutheran World Relief Quilts*

Quilts have played a major part of Lutheran World Relief's mission since its founding in 1945. That means, for over 70 years, quilters across the country have lovingly stitched thousands upon thousands of quilts for distribution as part of LWR's many projects. Their quilts have traveled all over the world, from Peru to India to Tanzania, providing warmth and comfort to millions of families. Our congregation is sending 165 quilts this year to wherever it is needed in the world thanks to these loving hands. The quilters are: Carol Schumann, Meredith Nyman, Evelyn Sanford, Bernice Reynolds, Jerry McDonough, Betty Pankau, and Connie Schade. Thank you for your dedication! If anyone would like to join them in this ministry, they meet on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.



### *Calling All Military Families*



With Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Veterans Day all coming up, the Congregational Life Board has realized we need to update our lists of families who've had or do have a military family member.

If you have a family member who served in the military who has passed, please contact St. Paul Lutheran's church office at (830) 625-9191 and provide the following information:

**Name of veteran - Branch of service - What war they served in**

If you have (or are) an active duty, retired or discharged military person in your family, please contact the church office with the following information:

**Name - Branch of service - If active, where serving (if allowed) - Status (active/retired/discharged)**

We would like to honor those who protect our right to serve our Lord, protect our freedoms and our way of life. As opposed to other wars, only 4% of our population is serving right now, but 8% of our population has served either in the current conflicts or previous ones. When a husband or wife is serving, the entire family is serving in one way or another.

Please help us identify those families who are or have helped protect all our freedoms.



Flowers

*May 6 - Tommy & Shanna Mezik & Gloria Jung*  
*May 13 - Byron & Alison Setser*

*May 20 - Open*  
*May 27 - Graduating Seniors*

**Blessing our Graduates**

St. Paul will be Blessing **all high school and college graduates** on **Sunday, May 27** during the 10:30 service. The high school graduates are invited to set up a “Memory Table” in the Lobby and/or Fellowship Hall before 9:00am. These tables are a wonderful way for students to share with the congregation the many blessings they have received. Contact Kristin Martinez to reserve a space for your “Memory Table”. There will be a cake & reception during the Sunday School hour for the congregation to congratulate each graduate. All high school seniors should plan to wear their graduation gown for the 10:30 service and arrive by 9:00 a.m. to participate in the reception. We would like to have all high school and college graduates listed in the church bulletin. Please contact **Kristin Martinez at (210) 452-4519 or email her at bengalsmom7@gmail.com or Jennifer@nbstpaul.org by May 13**, with the following information that applies:

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:**

- Student Name
- Name of High School graduating from
- Future Plans - College Name & major area of study
- Military Service – specify branch
- Employment opportunities



**COLLEGE GRADUATES:**

- Student Name
- Name of University
- Degree received
- Future Plans - Pursue Post Baccalaureate Degree
- Employment Opportunities
- Military Service – specify branch
- Marriage

**Final Lesson and Dinner**

St. Paul requests the presence of all of our high school graduates and their parents at a dinner and presentation. This event will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at River Hofbrau in New Braunfels at 6:30 p.m. The graduates meal will be provided. Contact Kristin Martinez by April 25 so more details can be emailed to you. The Dinner is in honor of our graduates and hosted by the board of Youth and Family Ministries. Each graduate will receive the final lesson in the “Graduate Blessing Stepping Stone” program and a special gift. Please reserve your space today!

**Save the date!!**



**Vacation Bible School is June 25-29, 2018.** At Shipwrecked VBS, kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. Shipwrecked is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Come join us for the week of amazing fun. Registration is now open! Please go to the church website [nbstpaul.org](http://nbstpaul.org) and register your kids - age 3 years through completed 5th grade. VBS is from 9am -Noon. We also need tons of volunteers to make this week meaningful for our kids. If you can help, please go and register on the church website as well! We would love for you to help for any amount of time that you can give. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly (210) 383-8504 or Jenny (830)708-6457 or at [VBS@nbstpaul.org](mailto:VBS@nbstpaul.org).

**LCMC Texas District Convention** will be held here at St. Paul, **July 27-28, 2018 (Friday-Saturday)**. Let's Get Excited Everyone!!! "Jars of Clay" is the theme for the convention. There will be speakers and events for the adults and youth (grades 6th-12th). This is the first year that the convention will have a youth branch. Please consider helping with this event. More details and volunteer opportunities coming soon. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND!!**



**Mission Moment**

To read Pastor Bryce’s latest article, please go to: <http://www.lcmctexas.org/mission-moment>

*Texas District*

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
 Director of Mission Growth

**Board & Committee Reports** can be found on the website at <http://www.nbstpaul.org/resources/board-reports/>

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

Pastor - Rev. Charles "Chip" Reynolds - [pastorchip@nbstpaul.org](mailto:pastorchip@nbstpaul.org).

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

Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Burrows - [jennifer@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jennifer@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)

Maintenance - Jason Crofford - [jason@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jason@nbstpaul.org)

Organist - Ann Brown

CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191

PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044

FAX (830) 620-7715

[www.nbstpaul.org](http://www.nbstpaul.org)

**May 2018**



Please join us on Sunday mornings for worship and the Bible study hour:

Traditional Worship 8:00 a.m.; Bible study hour 9:15-10:15 a.m.; Informal Worship 10:30 a.m.



777 W. San Antonio St.  
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

**ST. PAUL**  
**LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH**  
*simply engaging*

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

MEMBER LCMC  
Return Services Requested

