

# The Epistle



## Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

The First Estate - June, 2018

Long before he created the church, God instituted government. But even before that, the first estate God put in place was marriage. **Marriage** is a big deal; in particular **your** marriage is a big deal... it is the core building block for the neighborhood, the city, even for our nation. Seasoned educators and pastors who make their living working with children and families will testify to the truth: for better and for worse, what goes on in your marriage spills over like a river into all your relationships in the neighborhood: your children, school, work.

The popular myth in our culture is that around fifty percent of marriages end in divorce. In a culture that perceives marriage only as a "50/50 chance," why would two people take that chance? The truth is that even at its peak in 1980, the divorce rate never hit 50% and it has declined since then. Indeed, the U.S. Census bureau stopped projecting divorce in 1996 and subsequently put its survey questions through a major overhaul. The success rate for all first marriages in the last four decades has been 70% and climbing! When marriages ended by the death of either spouse are factored into the equation, the **success rate for all first marriages is actually close to 80%**. So, from where comes the popular fiction of a "50% divorce rate"? One factor that has skewed the number is the higher divorce rate among second and third marriages. Second and third marriages are more likely to end in divorce than are first marriages. The clear majority of first marriages remain intact until death parts husband and wife. There is "good news about marriage" and getting it out there is encouraging for couples who are contemplating marriage. The news gets even better for those couples who actively practice the Christian faith. Of couples who say, "God is at the center of our marriage," 93% are either happy or very happy in marriage. No wonder that first lonely man sang out when the Lord sent along his wife, "*at last, bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh*" (Genesis 2:23).

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



## John Magness, Congregational President

We need more classrooms! It is not a build and "they" will come, - "they" are here. And the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation has stepped forward with an offer to help. The Foundation will be holding a fund drive to garner enough money so that the income earned will finance the construction of additional classrooms. Kindly be ready to offer your support. Your giving to this effort is in addition to the tithes and offerings that you normally give to St. Paul.

We continue to gain new members. Kindly welcome them and get them involved so that they become disciples with us in spreading the wonderful news of Jesus to those waiting for you and me to tell them this good news. Be ready to share how Jesus has impacted your life and always offer to pray with them.

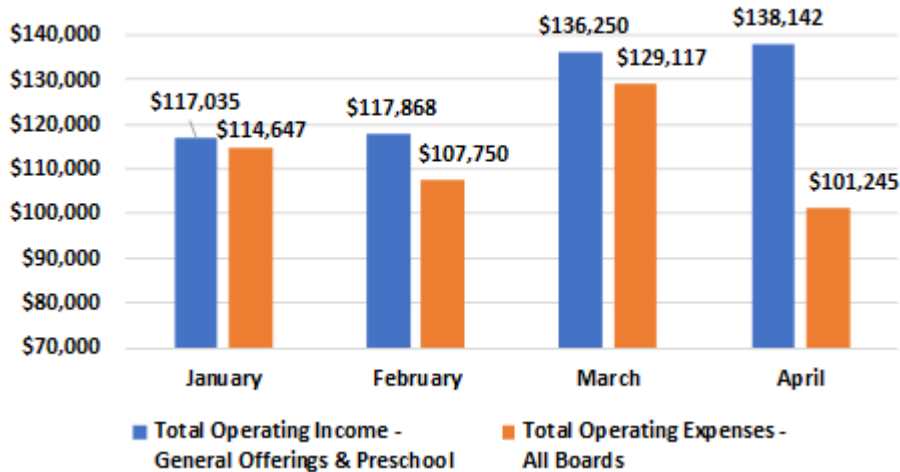
There are so many good things that you can help with: Vacation Bible School, Slumber Falls, the LCMC Texas District Gathering we are hosting, our worship services and on and on. Be proactive in contacting people to help where you are interested.

Finally, remember to pray and study with your family and your neighbors and our congregation. Even pray for those who do things you do not like. I continue to pray God's peace to all of us.

*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



## Congregational Meeting

June 24

After 2nd Service (11:30 a.m.)

We will be electing officers and delegates. Please be sure to attend!



## June Flowers

June 3 - Paul & Georgia Tadlock  
 June 10 - Open  
 June 17 - Glenn & Leslie Wellbrock  
 June 24 - Open

## Graduate Blessing Dinner

In May, the Youth and Families Ministries honored our students and their parents that graduated from high school at a dinner at the River Hofbrau.



Congratulations graduates!



## Thank you

My family and I would like to thank Pastor Chip and our brothers and sisters in Christ for the prayers, visits, and telephone calls during my recent hospitalization and recuperation. I thank God for wonderful Christian family and friends.

Ferdy (Jr.) Jung and Family

Dear Members of St. Paul,

Thank you can never be enough to say how much your prayers, cards, calls, and hospital visits meant to me. It's been a long battle, but you have helped me through.

God Bless you all,

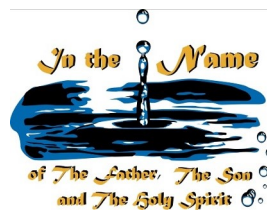
Margaret Warncke

## Our Sympathy to ...



The Owens family on the death of Gene Owens on May 17, 2018.

## Baptism in May



May 13, 2018 -  
 Elise Mueller

## Calling All Military Families



With our patriotic holidays around the corner, 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 or who has passed, please email Jennifer@nbstpaul.org in the church office 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 email 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.

Preschool Ministry

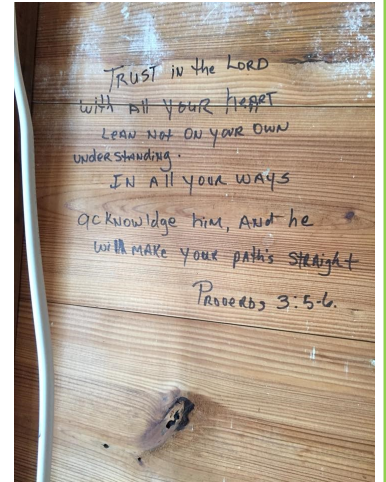


Our 2018 Pre-K class graduated in May! Congratulations and best of luck in Kindergarten!



Mini-Mission to Austwell

We wrote scriptures on the framing before the sheet rock goes up.  
May God bless this home!



Save the date!!



**Vacation Bible School is coming June 25-29!**

Shipwreck, where Jesus rescues you through life's storms. Come and let Jesus into your heart!

Please register online at [nbstpaul.org/faith-formation/children](http://nbstpaul.org/faith-formation/children). Also, follow the "VBS Supply Donation Sign-Up" link to donate items needed to make this week amazing.

Date: June 25 - 29; Time: 9 a.m. - Noon; Ages: 4 years old through completed 5th grade

We need lots of volunteers. Here are a couple of areas in which we need your help!

- **Crew leaders** - Date: June 10 & June 24; Time: Sunday School Hour; Where: Fellowship Hall/201
- **Prep, decorate, and organize** - Date and Time: June 6 from 6-8 p.m. ; June 23 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Be sure to join us June 27 at Landa Park, Pavilion 15, from 6-8 p.m. for a potluck dinner and fellowship with all the families. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly (210) 383-8504 or Jenny (830) 708-6457 or email [VBS@nbstpaul.org](mailto:VBS@nbstpaul.org).



Slumber Falls  
Camp

This year's theme is "God Strengthens Me". Be sure to join us for 3 days of fun-packed Bible stories, games, music, swimming, crafts, gaga ball, and more! Please sign up online at [nbstpaul.org/faith-formation/children](http://nbstpaul.org/faith-formation/children).

Date: July 23—25; Time: 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; Ages: Completed 2nd - 5th grade; Cost: \$50



**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. Follow this link to register:

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/f/f2.asp?formid=731b40e3-fcb6-4bf8-82f7-6754faef6194>



**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)

**June 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.



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

MEMBER LCMC  
Return Services Requested

