

# The Epistle



## Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

Living into God's vision for us

Sandi and I still have a home phone number, a landline. Some time ago, a live person called and wanted to chat about our community's needs and assets. He explained that if I had a few minutes, the information I had to offer could be valuable to community leaders; so I was happy to spend a few minutes with this fella. The question we had the most fun discussing was: **what do I believe is the biggest asset in our community?**

After he gave me multiple answers from which I could choose, I told him that I didn't think my honest answer was listed on his grid. He was intrigued and asked me to say more. I told him that I believe the biggest asset – or possible detriment – to our community is our families. As go our households – marriage and the family – so goes our community.

As you and I begin a new year together under Christ's lordship, I believe his vision for us as a congregation is a perfect fit... especially since we live in the fastest growing county (under 50K) in the entire nation. Our vision is that ***we will be a congregation that engages people in order to help families follow Jesus.*** Can you think of anything that has a greater impact on our community and for eternity than all of us living into this vision? (if you can, I want to hear from you).

Starting 2019 in Three Days of Prayer will most certainly help sinners like us live into this vision (need a copy of the prayer booklet? [Click here](#) On January 6, during both services, I'm going to paint a picture of what it might look like for us to live into the vision God has for our ministry. Let's get started by praying together right now: Gracious and Almighty Father, thank you for your favor toward us in Jesus and for your vision for our ministry. Pour out your Holy Spirit and work through me every day to help my family and more families in our community follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Your brother in Christ,

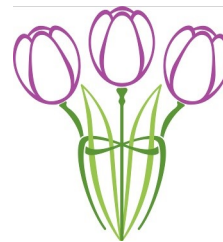
Pastor Paul

## MayaWorks

Thank you for continuing to support MayaWorks! Your purchases greatly impact the lives of the artisans and their families. MayaWorks returns all sales profits to Guatemala. This provides work, funds scholarship and training programs, and provides micro-credit to the artisans and their families. May God bless you for your generosity!

Gail Krueger

## January Altar Flowers



January 6 - Shanna Mezik

January 13 - Open

January 20 - Open

January 27 - Open

*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

## *John Magness, Congregational President*



Dear St. Paul Congregation Council:

13 December 2018

In the best interest of St Paul and our disciple-making mission, I submit my resignation as President of St. Paul Lutheran Church of New Braunfels in order to give attention to family and personal needs. I appreciate to have served and I pray for the best for St. Paul.

*John E. Magness*  
John Magness

John:

The Council of St. Paul Lutheran Church of New Braunfels, as well as the entire congregation, would like to **THANK YOU** greatly for your service to our church. As the Congregational President and leader of the Council, you have brought great energy and enthusiasm to the position. You are well-loved, and we look forward to “spreading the Gospel” with you in the future.

The Congregational Council  
St. Paul Lutheran Church of New Braunfels

## *2019 St. Paul Wild Game Dinner*



**We are getting close! Purchase your tickets and invite your neighbors.**

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Wild Game Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at the New Braunfels Civic and Convention Center. For you with families, Alison has planned as lot of activities for the children. Remember children 12 and under are free.

This is the main community outreach and fellowship event for St. Paul. The committee has set a goal of serving 800 during the event. Three things need to happen to reach that goal. First, and most important, is the guidance of our Lord and Savior. Second is the involvement of the St. Paul Church members as volunteers, donors, and event participants. Third is for you to invite your neighbors and your friends.

**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 (fried fish and chicken tenders)**, live and silent auctions, drawings, and a dance featuring live music by local country artist Bret Graham. Donations for the live and silent auction are being received at the church office. For the 2019 event we have enhanced the kid’s zone.

**What Happens to the Proceeds:** The 2019 recipients are:

- ***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 youth crisis pregnancy counseling and assistance program
- ***Communities in Schools*** - provides support to help students stay in school and succeed in life
- ***Options for Life.*** – Nonprofit, Christ-centered organization dedicated to educating and encouraging people to choose life.
- ***Youth Ministry*** – supports youth programs, including summer camps, mission trips, VBS, and more

**Now is the time to get involved:** Help is needed in all areas as we expect to serve in excess of 800 for the 2019 event. It is a great way to meet other members of St. Paul and is a tremendous amount of fun! For questions you can contact the church office, a committee member, or Lance Bielke and/or Garth Bielke.

St. Paul Church Office  
Lance Bielke, Chairman  
Garth Bielke, Co-Chairman

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(830) 625-9191  
(210) 508-8393  
(830) 305-1812

# St Paul Youth News

## Happy New Year

Wednesday, January 2 - NO EVENTS

Wednesday, January 9

6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Open gym for all 6th-11th grade  
12th grade AND parents 2nd lesson in  
Graduate Stepping Stone

Wednesday, January 16

6:00-8:00 p.m.  
ARK event for 6th-12th grade

Wednesday, January 23

6:00-8:00 p.m.  
ARK event for 6th-12th grade

Wednesday, January 30

6:00-8:00 p.m.

### Breaking Bread Together



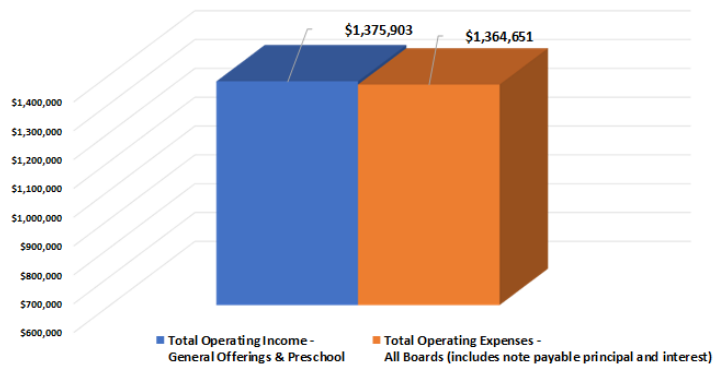
Breaking Bread groups are an easy way to belong, to feel a part of the whole. Married or single, with children or not, come join in one meal a month (your group determines when, where, and the menu) in a host home and really get to know the folks in our church. New groups (of 6 to 8 in each) are forming in January to meet through April. We will form new groups again for May

through August. In a year's time, you'll have made connections with over a dozen members. You don't know anyone well just now? Perfect!!! This is the way to change that. Call or email Dotty Collins at (830) 708-5198 (cell - if you don't leave a message I won't call back) or [Dotty@postofficerealty.com](mailto:Dotty@postofficerealty.com). Or contact the church office. We want to engage with you, so contact us today!

### Preschool Ministry

Preschoolers know they have needs and they are not afraid to let you know. That's a good thing and something we want to use to help preschoolers see another need they have—a need we all have—and that is Jesus. Psalm 119:57 “You are everything we need” is our scripture memory verse for January. Life can be tough. Having a friend like Jesus who knows us, loves us, and has the power to help us can truly change our lives. After all, that's what friends do. They help one another when they need it. And there is no better friend than Jesus.

Income Versus Expenses  
as of November 30, 2018



### 2018 Contribution Statements

End of year contribution statements for 2018 will be available in the Lobby between services on **January 20 and 27**. Any statements not picked up at this time, will be mailed out on **January 30**. Please stop by and pick yours up.



## Mission Moment

Texas District

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth

To read Pastor Bryce's latest article in its entirety, please go to:

<http://www.lcmctexas.org/mission-moment>

*For current events and information, please visit [www.nbstpaul.org](http://www.nbstpaul.org).*

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)  
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Staff - Shelby Hines - [shelby@nbstpaul.org](mailto:shelby@nbstpaul.org)  
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PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044  
FAX (830) 620-7715

**January 2019**



  Find us on Facebook  [www.nbstpaul.org](http://www.nbstpaul.org)

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.  
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New Braunfels, TX 78130

MEMBER LCMC  
Return Services Requested

