

# The Epistle

## Paul Owens, Senior Pastor



The Ten Commandments... and Jesus

Think about a time when you were a kiddo and you got in trouble... when an accusation – spoken or unspoken – got hold of your conscience and wouldn't let go (perhaps you don't even have to think back in time, perhaps that accusing voice has you in its grip right now).



When I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, I had been wearing eyeglasses for a few months. I didn't need them all the time, just some of the time, to see the board across the room. Each day, I took them to school in my lunchbox, placed in with my sandwich that mom or dad had made, my piece of fruit, some chips, cookies, and a napkin. One morning, I couldn't find my eyeglasses. I thought through my steps and where they might be... I realized that I had accidentally thrown away my eyeglasses at school the day prior, when I had dumped my lunch box upside down to discard my trash into the lunch room garbage can. Oh no! Those glasses had cost \$65.00 (the year was 1972). They were gone and it was my fault. Panic welled inside and tears fell down my cheeks as I went to tell my Dad what I had done.

While God's commandments are good and holy, they are also relentlessly accusing and unforgiving. It is actually their job to be that way. They will point out clearly when you've landed yourself in trouble, but they cannot get you out of trouble. The commandments cannot forgive you; that's Jesus' job... and he is happy to do it.



When I found my Dad early that morning to tell him the news, he was in our garage preparing to take our own trash to the curb. I felt awful and told him what I had done with my eyeglasses. He just opened wide his arms, drew my teary face into his belly, stroked my head and with a smile said, "Don't worry Paul, we can get another pair of glasses."

**God's word speaks to beloved sinners like us in two notes: law and gospel... demand and promise... accusation and forgiveness.** Luther said all of life and ministry is about the proper distinction between the two. We will spend this lent under a sermon series on the 10 Commandments. It will be good and holy for us to hear them... and Jesus will be close by to do HIS job: forgive commandment breakers like you and me.

## Tex Brown, Interim President

Howdy St. Paul family - I want to express my thanks to the SPLC Council for electing me to be the interim president of your congregation for the next five months. I am humbled to serve you and pray to keep our church moving forward as we have been doing for the past few years. I also want to personally express my gratitude for the service John Magness gave our church as the congregational president for the past 18 months. His energy and enthusiasm was outstanding. Thank you John!!

Our church is growing by leaps and bounds. The youth group is vibrant, the Sunday attendance is more than ever, our Sunday morning Bible study groups are robust and expanding, and more and more families are joining us. The music program is better than ever too and the chancel choir is the largest since we have been in this church. I believe that is because we are a church focused on -- **servicing Jesus and spreading His gospel.**

So what is happening today at SPLC? Our current New Disciple class has 30 folks preparing to join us in our mission. Wow!! The Endowment Foundation has a current effort to raise funds for a much needed expansion of our classrooms. We would love for everyone to participate in that mission. The Women's ministry is planning a retreat and the Men's ministry is planning Round Ups where speakers come and share the Gospel to the community. Wild Game Dinner was the biggest one in history and continues to bless many ministries around our community to include our own youth group. BIG thanks to the 100+ volunteers but especially the Lance and Garth Bielke families. It is such a blessing to serve in a church with so many followers of Jesus. See you at SPLC!!

*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

*Meet the St. Paul Lutheran Council*



Tex Brown  
Interim President



BJ Hageman  
Vice President



Susan Montgomery  
Treasurer



Jeannie Anderson  
Secretary



Nancy Schlather  
Family Faith Formations  
(F3)-Children



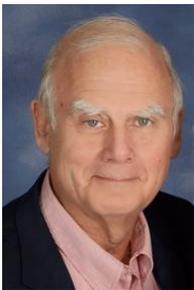
Lynn Lear  
Family Faith Formations  
(F3)-Youth



Sue Schwab  
Family Faith Formations  
(F3)-Adult



Roxanne Ware  
Interim  
Evangelism/PR



Chip Franck  
Personnel



Danny Zunker  
Property



Ed Berich  
Worship



M'Lissa Steel  
Congregational Life



Brad Campbell  
Stewardship

**Preschool Ministry**

The month of March in the Preschool we will begin laying the foundation for some very important future conversations around the subject of sexual integrity. Before we ever talk with kids and teens about what to do and not do with their bodies, we need to start with who made their body and why that makes them so valuable. And a great place to start is now, in the preschool years, with this simple but powerful truth—God made me. Our scripture memory for March is “I am fearfully & wonderfully made.” Psalm 139:14

We will have a Preschool Family Playground Workday Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30-11:30 a.m. We would greatly enjoy getting to know church families. Please contact Rebecca Epley at (830) 625-2044 or rebecca@nbpstpaul.org if you and your family would like to join us.

**Roar VBS --- Planning the "Mane" Event**



At Roar VBS, June 24-28, kids will discover that even though life gets wild, God is good. We would love your help in planning this wild event filled with incredible Bible learning experiences, science gizmos, team building games and great Bible songs. If you would like to volunteer, offer your suggestions or hear more about volunteer roles, join us for a volunteer planning meeting on March 31st at 11:30 a.m. after second service in Room 212. For more information or to volunteer, contact Kimberly Wunderlich at kimberly\_bailes@hotmail.com or (210) 383-8504.

**St Paul Youth News**

Reminder...sign ups are online for Camp Eagle and Mission New Braunfels!

**Camp Eagle**  
July 2-7, 2019

**Mission NB**  
July 15-19

**Butter Braid Fundraiser** - Our youth are selling Butter Braids through March 31st! They are \$14 each. You may order through any youth member or online through the church website (local orders only). Pick up will be April 10th @ 6:00 p.m.

**Women's Retreat**



Luke 8:10

*St. Paul Women's Retreat  
April 26 – 28, 2019  
At a Beautiful Ranch  
In  
Stonewall, Texas  
Registration Online Only  
Beginning March 15, 2019*

**March Flowers**



- March 3 - Open
- March 10 - Ken & Lisa Brucks
- March 17 - Greg & Nancy Schlather
- March 24 - Open
- March 31 - Open

**Church Leadership**

At the congregational meeting in June, leaders for the following positions will be elected: President, Vice President and Directors of the following boards; Evangelism, Children's Ministry, Personnel, Stewardship, Property, and Congregational Life. We also will be electing delegates and alternates to attend the LCMC Annual Gathering and the LCMC Texas District Gathering.

If you are called to participate in congregational leadership or would like to nominate one of our members for a leadership position, please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Stewart Wirebaugh at wirebaughs@aol.com or (830) 609-8784, or any member of the nominating committee; Harvey Haas, Rod Mueller, Liz Doss, Jill Kreuzler, or Roxanne Ware.



Be sure to join us for Lenten meals and services on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Meals begin at 5:30 p.m. and worship services are at 6:30 p.m. from March 6 - April 10.

Ash Wednesday, March 6  
Noon - St. Martin & 6:30 p.m. - St. Paul

Maundy Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
Good Friday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

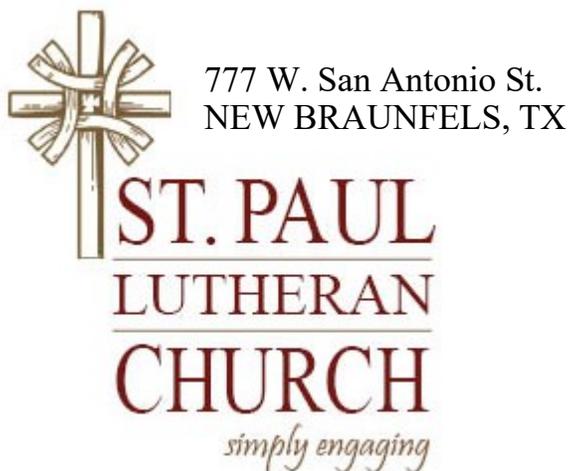
Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - [pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org](mailto:pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org)  
Pastor - Rev. Charles "Chip" Reynolds - [pastorchip@nbstpaul.org](mailto:pastorchip@nbstpaul.org).  
Executive Director of Operations & Preschool - Michelle Rivera - [michelle@nbstpaul.org](mailto:michelle@nbstpaul.org)  
Administrative Coordinator - 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 Technician- Jason Crofford - [jason@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jason@nbstpaul.org)  
Organist - Ann Brown  
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Staff - Shelby Hines - [shelby@nbstpaul.org](mailto:shelby@nbstpaul.org)  
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PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044  
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**March 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.  
Permit #90  
New Braunfels, TX 78130

MEMBER LCMC  
Return Services Requested

