

The Epistle



Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

October's vocabulary word: Dead

Vocabulary matters a great deal. In his classic "The Screwtape Letters," C.S. Lewis identified how Satan works with subtle, deadly skill to get us to spin our vocabulary in his favor... without us even knowing it. Pastor Tony Stoutenberg (LCMC, Hayward, WI) gives a poignant example of this:

Since the second century, there has been a heresy called Gnosticism. Gnostics are allergic to notions of sin, evil and death. Because of this, one modern gnostic, Mary Baker Eddy, encouraged her followers not to speak of dying, but of "passing away." The term has slipped into the American vernacular, unfortunately, even among Christians. Essayist Brian Jay Stanley writes,

"It is the perfect [phrase] for the skeptical yet sentimental modern mind, which cannot accept annihilation, nor easily believe in immortality. "Passed away" allows vague hope without dogma, as if to say, 'He has gone somewhere else, please don't ask for details.'"

Paul and John tell us that "this world" and "the darkness" are "passing away," (1 Corinthians 7:31 and John 2:17; 1 John 2:8) but not people. According to the Bible, people die; after they die, they are dead. That is not a cause for fear, but it is an important distinction. In Gnosticism, this world is some sort of illusion that our true self must pass through and escape. Christians confess that this fallen world is redeemed by Christ, and the dead will be raised.

In light of this promise of resurrection, the New Testament uses the word "sleep" as a way of speaking of death (1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4). Just as we are awakened from sleep day by day, on the Last Day all who are in Christ shall be raised from the dead to eternal life. That is not some vague hope; it is the promise of God in Christ Jesus.

You and I are not Gnostics, we're Christians. This world is not a place for you to escape from; it is precisely where Jesus has put you in order to follow him and let his light shine for your neighbor. And don't worry: when you die you won't just pass vaguely "away" to somewhere else. You will be dead... and Jesus will raise you to be with him for eternity. Thanks be to God.

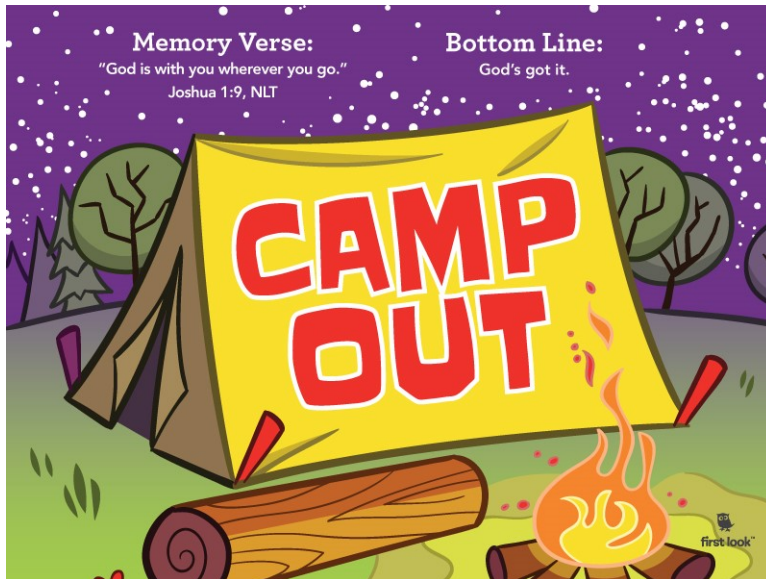
Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

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

Preschool Ministry

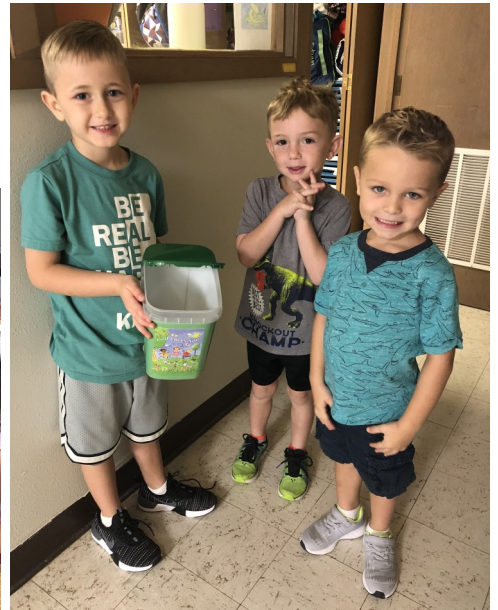


There are a lot of things in life that we just can't do. Sometimes we just don't have it. We don't have a handle on our circumstances. We don't have what it takes to make things better. We don't have the answers, energy, wisdom, patience, solution, or way out of a situation. But, we do know the One who does. And, when you know the One who does, there's no need to worry.

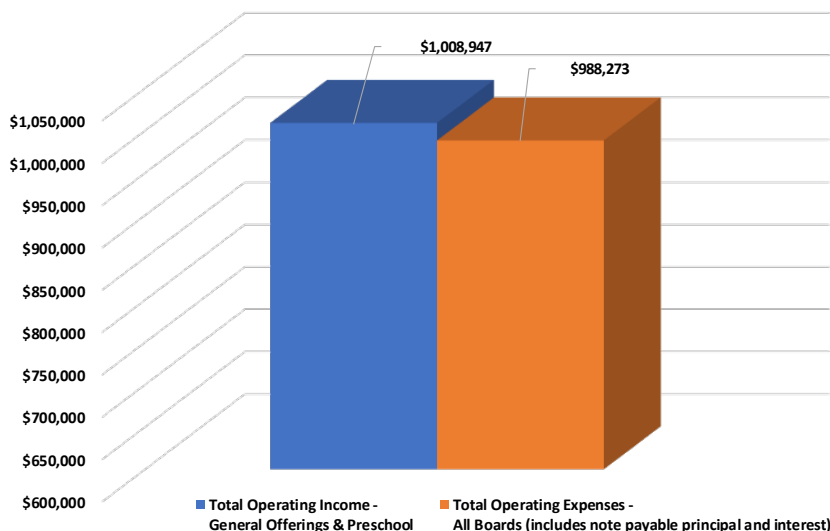
GOD'S GOT IT! That's what we're talking about with our preschoolers this month. No need to worry, be afraid or feel alone. GOD'S GOT IT! No matter what the situation or need. No matter how big or small the circumstance. GOD'S GOT IT. Because, God loves us—A LOT! And THAT is what we want our preschoolers to know.

Special guests welcome!

Our weekday Preschool classes greatly enjoy having special guests to read a book, to play an instrument, to share about who they are & what they do, or to do a craft. Please contact our Preschool office (830) 625-2044 or rebecca@nbstpaul.org to partner with the Preschool ministry.



Income Versus Expenses
as of August 31, 2018



Important Dates to Remember:

October 6

9:00 a.m. Council Budget Workshop

October 15

7:00 p.m. Council meeting
(vote on budget)

November 11

Congregational Budget Forum

November 18

11:30 a.m. Congregational meeting
(after 2nd service)

New Braunfels Men's Round Up



The kickoff event for the New Braunfels Men's Round Up was held on Tuesday night, September 11 at Krause's cafe. Over 150 men from the surrounding area (NB, Seguin, Spring Branch, San Marcos, and San Antonio) came out to have a nice buffet dinner and then hear Astronaut Charlie Duke tell his story of walking on the moon. Charlie told us of many aspects of the Apollo program and then his 72 hours on the moon (showed video footage) as the 10th man to ever accomplish the feat as a "moon walker" in April 1972. He also gave us a redemption message of his salvation walk with Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Many men from SPLC came to the event and brought other men. It was a terrific kickoff and now there will be at least three more nights just like this one in the future. Mark your calendars for October 23 at Krause's cafe when former University Of Texas All American and Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Burt Hooton will be the next speaker in this lineup of significant men with a message of stardom and the Kingdom. Don't wait too late to buy your tickets as sales close one week prior to the event. Bring a friend!! https://buy.ticketstothecity.com/purchase.php?event_id=6777



Worship Outside Our Walls

October 14, 2018
10:45 a.m. Worship
Landa Park Dance Slab
Pavilions #4 & #5

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Service - at St. Paul
9:15 a.m. - Bible Study Hour - at St. Paul

This church service in the park is a great time to invite those neighbors who are reluctant to come inside, but will go outside with you to God's natural setting and then stay afterwards for a picnic lunch. Great preaching, great music and great food will be had by all, so make your plans to join us **October 14** for "worship outside our walls".

Thank you!

Many heartfelt thanks for prayers & messages of encouragement before & following BJ's surgery.

- Pixie and BJ Hageman



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>



October Flowers

Oct. 7 - Dixie Scheel
Oct. 14 - Open
Oct. 21 - Bryron & Alison Setser
Oct. 28 - Kenny & Lisa Brucks

St Paul Youth News

Wednesday, Oct. 3 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Open gym & ARK event

Wednesday, Oct. 10 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Open gym & fellowship event

Wednesday, Oct. 17 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Open gym & ARK event
(6th-11th grade students and Guides)
(12th graders and parents meet in Rm. 204 for Blessing the Graduate meeting)

Sunday, Oct. 21 - (time & location TBD)
Faith Statement Banquet

Wednesday, Oct. 24 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Open gym & service project
(deliver pies to firefighters)

Sunday, Oct. 28 - 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Sunday
Confirmants need to arrive early!

Wednesday, Oct. 31 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Open gym & fellowship event



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

Pastor - Rev. Charles "Chip" Reynolds - pastorchip@nbstpaul.org.

Executive Director of Operations & Preschool - Michelle Rivera - michelle@nbstpaul.org

Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Burrows - jennifer@nbstpaul.org

Bookkeeper/Controller - Stacy Garcia - stacy@nbstpaul.org

Director of Music & Creative Arts - Jody Noblett - jody@nbstpaul.org

Maintenance - Jason Crofford - jason@nbstpaul.org

Organist - Ann Brown

CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191

PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044

FAX (830) 620-7715

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

