

# St Paul's Evangelical Church

Edition 3, Volume 1  
January, 2019

## Pastor's Pen

The story is told of a man that pulls into a filling station in the middle of the desert. He asks the attendant, "Where am I?" The attendant asks, "Where are you going?" "Nowhere in particular," the driver replied to which the attendant said cryptically, "Then it really doesn't matter where you are." In life we need to know both where we are going (our goals) and where we are—then we can chart the course, make the plans, measure if we are making progress, anticipate arrival.

With the beginning of a new year, it is a good time to ask, "Where are you going?" and "Where are you right now in respect to the goal?" An accountant would ask that in terms of your finances—for financial planning. A doctor would ask that in terms of your health—for an exercise and diet plan. A career advisor would ask that in terms of your work plans—to chart a path of professional development. But a pastor asks that in terms of your spiritual condition and goals—knowing that serving Jesus and utilizing your time, talents, finances, gifts for Him and for building His Kingdom will yield rewards for eternity. So, "Where are you spiritually?" . . . . "Where do you desire to ultimately be spiritually?" . . . . "How will you get from where you are to where you desire to be so that when you stand before Jesus you will hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your LORD."

New Years is a great time to take stock and chart a course for the coming year and for eternity.

*Where are you going? Who will walk beside you?  
When the night is gloomy, Where is the light to guide you?  
And where's your gold, And your silver brightly shining?  
Who writes the music, In the quiet summer morning?  
I'm going where He goes, And He'll be there beside me.  
The love for which He died, Is all I need to guide me.  
And He's my gold, And my silver brightly shining!  
He writes the music, In the quiet summer morning!  
I know where I'm going, But where are you going?*

## Church Events

January 13 – Installation of new Board Officers during Sunday service

January 13 – Communion

January 13 – Evangelical Council Meeting @ 4:00

January 21 – Church Board meeting @ 6:15

**Family Night:** None

## Contact us at:

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# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Alison Gorman	4	5 Sharon Wegener
6 Debi Baumert, Lee Bieri	7 Hudson Clay	8 Rachel Marshall	9 Middle School Youth Group 6:30-8pm WWJD 6:50-7:45am Youth Group HS 6:30-8:15am Adam Baker	10	11	12
13 Installation of new Board Officers during Sunday service Evangelical Council Meeting @ 4:00 Communion	14 Gail Muri, Lexi Muri, Alli Muri, Mark Oerly, Charlotte Rohrbach	15 Oscar Knierim, Joyce Rohrbach	16 Middle School Youth Group 6:30-8pm WWJD 6:50-7:45am Youth Group HS 6:30-8:15am Natalie Bish	17 Bryce Schoenthal	18 David Knierim, Brenda Selby	19 Amos Rohrbach
20 Steven Gentsch, Virginia Strein	21 Church Board meeting @ 6:15	22 Natalie Glenn	23 Middle School Youth Group 6:30-8pm WWJD 6:50-7:45am Youth Group HS 6:30-8:15am	24	25	26 Jennifer Schoenthal
27	28	29	30 Middle School Youth Group 6:30-8pm WWJD 6:50-7:45am Youth Group HS 6:30-8:15am	31		

## Coming—where are we going?

In January we are beginning a series— “Things that are True.” As we have listened over the past few years to our politicians and news media, we have heard repeatedly about ‘fake news’ and people have accused one another of lying. The truth is that we cannot communicate and build trust unless we deal in truth. In short, truth is necessary for trust. But we live in a world where Satan (the enemy of God) is actively lying and spreading lies (Jesus called him the father of lies, Jn. 8:44). In our series “Things that Are True” we will be addressing some of those lies and

explaining from the Bible what is true. We will be looking at: Things that are True of God, this world and of you. Come and join us.

## Confirmation

We have a confirmation class at Moniteau of 7 young people meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in the afternoon and are looking at what we believe and building habits for the future—habits of reading the Bible every day, prayer, fellowship and witnessing, memorizing verses for each of those areas and are writing a personal doctrinal statement.

## Becoming—

### Middle School Youth Group Update

We have completed the first semester of the Middle School Youth Group. We really didn't know what this group would look like as we began in the fall, but we have 26 different teens that have come some from our church, but the majority from outside the church, some that do not go to church. So, God is using us to reach a significant part of the Middle School. Kathy Reimler and Pastor Steve do the teaching, Sandy Gerlach and Sharon Flippin provide the food. We have had a lot of good times getting to know one another and, hopefully, getting to know the LORD Jesus. Moving forward we are tentatively planning to have segments:

1. God is awesome—looking at His power and wisdom on both the cosmic scale and the microscopic scale.
2. Forgiveness—how to get past hurts---both how to forgive and how to apologize
3. Humility—appreciating others and having a realistic view of yourself.
4. Perseverance—Just Do It

We need:

1. Prayer warriors that will pray for the workers and for the teens.
2. Workers—we are always looking for people who want to make a difference in lives. If God is laying that on your heart, perhaps you should consider working with the Middle School Youth Group which meets Wednesday, 6:30-8pm

### WWJD

Attendance at WWJD averaged 31 for the month of December. During activity time, the children enjoyed working on Christmas crafts, including creating bead wreaths and coloring wooden ornaments. They also enjoyed singing Christmas carols each week between breakfast and devotional time.

On November 28, the children had learned from their puppet friend Mattie the Monkey about how Moses parted the Red Sea and led the Hebrews out of Egypt. On December 5, Pastor Steve explained another important event that followed: Moses went to the top of Mt. Sinai where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Discussion followed on how these Commandments tell us about how we should worship God and how we should treat one another.

Another puppet friend, Ribbity the Rabbit, visited on December 12 and told the story of David and Goliath

as found in 1st Samuel 17. Ribbity reminded the children that faith often comes in small packages, just as David knew God was with him and gave him strength when he fought and defeated the giant Goliath. At any time, we all can pray to God and ask for His help with the “giants” in our lives.

WWJD celebrated with a birthday party for Jesus on December 19 and enjoyed the special treat of donuts at breakfast. Adult leader Karen Jones opened the devotion time with group singing of “Happy Birthday, dear Jesus.” Using specially-made figurines, Karen then told the story of the birth of Jesus, including explaining to the children that the name Jesus means “God saves.” She asked the children to remember that the story lets us know that God loved us so much that He wanted to be with us in the form of His son, Jesus.

WWJD will resume on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.  
--Submitted by Susan Borts, adult leader

### Youth Group

The youth group finished up this semester with a Christmas Party. Ben and Kelly planned a full night of food and fun that ended with everyone receiving t-shirts with the youth group logo on the front and our purpose statement on the back. This will be a great way to promote the youth group and get people asking about what all we do.

I felt this was a very productive semester. Attendance was great and discussions were lively and active. We had several new faces this semester and many of them attended regularly throughout the year. Of those that started the semester very few dropped off as the semester went on so it's very positive that we are retaining the members we get. If I could sum up the entire semester into a few words it would be believing that God created the universe, Jesus is his son, and Jesus died for our sin is necessary, but not where it stops. We must attempt to align our lives with Jesus' by changing the way we act and changing the way we deal with others (see James 2:14-17). Pray that this truth would resonate with the youth in our community.

Looking to next semester, we will start by finishing up our series on James. After that I don't have any definite plans. We may look into some disciplines Christians ought to do such as praying, reading the bible, and giving. Pray for Ben, Kelly, and myself and we plan and set goals for next semester. Pray that God would bless the ministries we have at our church in the upcoming semester.

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St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting  
December 17, 2018

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board met on Monday, December 17, 2018. Present were Don Gerlach, Ted Rohrbach, Kim Marshall, Lisa Porter, Susan Borts, Barb Oerly and Pastor Steve Watson. Also, present were incoming members Mark Rohrbach and Debi Baumert. President Don Gerlach called the meeting to order and Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's report: The secretary's report from the November 19, 2018, meeting was reviewed. Kim made a motion to approve the minutes and Susan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: A copy of the treasurer's report was given to all board members. Barb made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Election of Officers: Slate of officers presented were:

President – Don Gerlach  
Vice President – Lisa Porter  
Secretary – Barb Oerly  
Treasurer – Ted Rohrbach  
Financial Secretary – Debi Baumert  
Communion Steward – Mark Rohrbach

Don made a motion to accept the slate of officers and Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Thanks to Kim and Susan for their service to the church and being on the church board.

**Old Business:**

- \* Church website calendar entries – See below.
- \* Church record book – No new entries.
- \* Stewardship report – Nothing new.
- \* Care pack program – Local churches administer the program that was previously the Buddy Pack program. Heidi Eschenbrenner coordinates for our church and Ted is given receipts for any purchases that are not covered by donations. The program continues through the school year and our church is responsible for December and January. Eight children are served. Susan was a contact for our church. Don will contact her to see what she helped with for the program.
- \* Homeless Ministry – No update.
- \* Painting and trim refinishing in church – Table until after the new year.
- \* Sunday School and Youth Group space – Table until after the new year.
- \* 2019 Family Night Host Schedule – Barb will finalize, send to board and Hailey for Messenger and post on bulletin board in church.
- \* Audit of Books – The information for the last two years has been sent to Nancy to audit.

**New Business:**

- \* Welcome to new board members – Several business items were discussed and new members were given several documents for reference. Ted is going to go to the bank and get specifics on the Entity Authorization to ensure we understand who needs to sign.
- \* Approval of bills – Lisa made a motion to approve payment of the bills and Mark seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- \* Installation of Officers – January 6, 2019 during church service.
- \* Prepare for Christmas Eve service – Don and Debi will get the candles ready for Circle of Lights. Everything else should be taken care of by Program Director.

\* January Evangelical Council Meeting – Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 4 p.m. at St. Paul’s. We provide snacks. A couple of agenda items will be pastor evaluation and election of officers.

\* February Family Night Activity – Ted proposed a couple options. He will talk to the people involved and see what works out.

Discussion items with Pastor Steve:

\* Mileage and pastor’s report – Pastor Steve gave board members a copy of the report. The report includes an overview of what has been done over the last few weeks, events coming up, sermon planning, visits and mileage detail.

\* Music in Church – Pastor Steve has been working with middle school youth group to potentially sing in church on a regular basis.

\* Super Bowl – Pastor Steve proposed a Super Bowl party for the men of the church and purchase a 2019 Football Sunday magazine for them. The magazine includes player testimony and stories from some well-known football figures. Ted made a motion to approve Pastor Steve spending \$30 on the magazines and Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed. Pastor Steve will see what can be coordinated for a Super Bowl party and how to distribute the magazines. He is also planning to try and coordinate some other men’s fellowship activities in the future.

\* Time off – Pastor Steve informed the board of future dates he will be taking off. The first will be sometime in January when his first grandson is born. He will likely not be gone on a Sunday. The second is in July of 2019. It is a class on Rural Ministry. He also asked about a potential education fund from his current salary. Ted will talk to Richard Elliott about this before a decision is made.

Next board meeting will be Monday, January 21, at 6:15 pm.

Barb made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Lisa seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barb Oerly  
Secretary

Note: After the meeting was adjourned, Ted submitted a request through email to approve a Christmas gift in the amount of \$400.00 for Pastor Steve. All board members through email approved the gift.