

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 4, Volume 10
October, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

God often gives opportunities to available people. That happened to me today. My battery had died and needed to be replaced and as I was removing the old and installing the new, my neighbor parked and came by—her husband had to replace a battery a few days earlier (so there was that connection of events). She shared they were looking to move and praying about a house they had found. I said simply, "I'll be praying for you." That opened up a conversation on prayer.

"I feel guilty praying for myself," she said.

"It is natural to pray for yourself, but if that is all you do, it might be indicative of your spiritual maturity," I replied. "It is natural for a child to ask primarily for himself, for his needs, for his desires; but, as a child matures, he begins to see and care about the needs of others and begins to pray for those things. When a person is mature, I suppose he prays more for others than for himself. It's okay to be at that point of praying for yourself, but it is not good to stay there." She seemed to take that in and agree and then switched to sharing her difficulty in consistent reading or even thinking about God.

"It is hard to do things alone. It is possible to teach yourself to read. It is possible to study and understand the Bible by yourself—but it doesn't work for most people. When the pioneers stopped at St. Louis, before they continued west they joined a wagon train and they hired a guide who knew the way. They knew that they couldn't make the journey on their own—that they would need the help, support, and encouragement of others on the road. They would also need the guidance of someone who had been there before. It is hard to learn to walk with Jesus by yourself. We need the encouragement, the support, the guidance of others. That is what the church is all about."

She nodded, as if these were new thoughts, helpful thoughts, encouraging thoughts. She knows that she would be welcome to come and worship with us anytime, and maybe in the future she will. But what struck me was that it was a conversation that was not planned or prayed for or anticipated. I simply encountered another person on life's journey. I had no idea what she was thinking or if she was interested in spiritual things. But I was available and willing to take the time to talk to her and let the conversation go whatever direction that she and the Lord would take it. It didn't seem awkward or forced and yet, I could sense God's leading and blessing. I could sense that something far more eternal and significant was happening than I could have planned. I wonder if that is how God wants to work in our lives from day to day—just to be available, to allow Him to take a conversation in a way and direction that might change a life for eternity.

Church Events

Oct. 3rd – World Wide Communion

Oct. 17th – Fall Walk & Hayride/ Fish Supper – Walk at 1:30, Meal at 6:00

Oct. 18th – Board Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Nov. 7th – Evangelical Council Meeting at Moniteau, 4 p.m.

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*Articles for the Messenger need to be submitted by the 25th of each month.

From Mary Kay

The last I wrote about my thoughts of God's purpose in creating women was several months ago, so I will continue writing here with a bit of a recap of what I introduced at that time. Of most significance, I believe, is that the Bible clearly states in Genesis that God (and the scripture says in several places that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit did this in unity) created the woman to make the one thing He created which He deemed "not good", good. Woman was created because upon Adam completing his task of naming the animals which all had complementary partners, Adam saw there was "no companion who corresponded to him." Woman was formed purposefully by the Creator and significantly different from man. Genesis tells us that Adam felt the lack of partner for himself and he recognized the woman Eve as "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." God could have done creation differently had He wanted to. He intentionally created man and woman in exactly the way He did for His purpose, to fulfill His purpose for them. We know that when sin entered the picture both the man and the woman were very broken by it's effects, but God's purpose for creating them was not. Specific consequences of sin were outlined by God for both the man and the woman...and we live with those to this day. I don't want to go into the "curse" God rendered to Satan (Genesis 3:14-15) nor what He said to man (Genesis 3:17-19), but will look at what God said to the woman (Genesis 3:16): To the woman He said: 'I will greatly increase your labor pains; with pain you will give birth to children. You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate you. (ESV)'

Exactly what this "curse" details has been debated for centuries, and today it is common to hear these words mocked. But in the simplest form what it tells us is that for women, the result of sin entering the picture is that the woman will go from a life of perfect, sinless bliss in relationship with God and the man to a life of conflict and struggle...especially in her relationship with man. Because of sin, finding and following that purpose God created her for (to be a companion who corresponds to man, to be the antidote for the one thing God saw in His earthly creation that was NOT good) would become a struggle; conflict between man and woman would become the norm. This is what sin does: it turns what is meant to be upside down and backwards, bends and twists it into unrecognizable shape. Yet we see God's plan of redemption outlined in this same passage when He curses the serpent. One could believe thus that in God Himself lies not only the key to living out His purpose for us, but also the power to do so. That purpose: to be a companion who corresponds to man and to be the antidote for what God saw as "not good".

Sermon Series

Continuing our series on 2 Peter. There will be a community Thanksgiving service hosted by the Assembly Church, Nov. 23. Pastor Almond will be our speaker.

Memory Verses for June

Be working on this important verse from 2 Peter 3:18

*But grow in grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Be working on this verse as a family.
Blessings

Mission Fest Update

We enjoyed Melissa Williford coming and sharing the ministry of Faith Maternity. She writes, “Thank you for allowing Sarah and me to speak with you about Faith Maternity Care and the work they are doing to help women choose life for their child. I enjoyed talking to each and every one of you and appreciate your hospitality towards Sarah, my family, and me. We are extremely grateful for the love offering you have blessed us with. The money collected will go towards making major home repairs that will continue to bless women for years to come. If you wish to continue to bless Faith Maternity, I left behind some baby bottles to be used to collect pocket change. Take home a bottle and return it when you have it full. Every penny counts just like every baby counts! God Bless, Melissa Williford”

Updates on our Missions

Nick Dettman writes: “Thanks for reaching out! We really appreciate all your prayers for us and our ministry. We are finishing up our sabbatical, which was planned for the months of August and September. We’ll be heading back to North Africa mid-October. We’d love your prayers as we transition back to work, that we would be refreshed, re-energized, and ready to jump back into our work. Also, that we would be clearly hearing from God as we process things we want to improve and build on moving forward, and for smooth travels on our trip back overseas. Thanks again; give everyone there our best! Blessings, Nick”

These are the things Heather at Healing House has asked us to pray for

- ▶ A piece of land for Jochebeds Promise
- ▶ Leaders to rise up
- ▶ Healing and restoration of families
- ▶ Ample provision to meet every need
- ▶ Hearts of servitude

Updates on the Jesus Storybook Bible and Other Resources

Recently, there was a mom with her three small children in the parking lot—her oldest son was riding a bike and she was strolling the infant. I was leaving the church and encountered her. I introduced myself, asked her name and asked if she lived in Jamestown (she did). I asked her to wait a minute, went into my office and grabbed

one of the Jesus Storybook Bibles (by the printer in my office) and gave it to her. She was appreciative and I look forward to following her up—she did say she was looking for a church home and she had heard that this was a good church. If you have someone with small children, feel free to give them a Jesus Storybook Bible from my office and invite them to come and worship with you Sunday.

I Am, 40 Reasons to Trust God. It explores the various names and descriptions of God in the Bible: Creator. Comforter. Healer. Friend. God’s names tell us who He is, what He is like, and what He does. *I Am*, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, including *Jehovah Jireh*, *The Lord My Shepherd*, *Immanuel*, *Rabbi*, and *I Am*. If you would like a copy, please let Pastor Steve know. It is a great way to share the Gospel and also to begin helping parents teach their children about Jesus.

Also, there are copies in back of “Parent Life Magazine” to give to a friend. On the first page it has a very good and simple Gospel presentation.

Simple Ways to Share the Gospel

In a few weeks, we will be giving to our WWJD students a colored bracelet—dark (black), red, white, green and gold. Each color stands for a part of the Gospel. The black stands for the sin in our lives. The Bible says that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The red stands for Jesus’ blood, shed on the cross to cover our sins. The white stands for God’s offer to cleanse us through the blood of Jesus (1 John 1). The green stands for growth (“But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus.”) and the gold stands for heaven. If you would like a bracelet and would wear it so that you can tell the story, please let Pastor Steve know.

Good Books

You might encounter a good book, buy it, read it and then it sits on your shelf. It is too good to throw away and it collects dust. If you have a good book that has especially helped you in your walk with the Lord Jesus and would like to make it available for your brothers and/or sisters in the church, please bring it to the pastor’s office with a brief note including your name, whether you desire the book to be returned to you, and how it helped you in your spiritual life.

Amelia and Elias Gradolf *Art Window*

This month's featured window portraying Matthew 19:14 is in the vestibule. It was a gift from Norma Porter in memory of her parents, Elia and Amelia Gradolf. Norma chose the subject of Jesus surrounded by children because of her father's love for children.

The Porter/Gradolf connection goes back several generations in our church history. Norma's grandparents were Rudolph and Mary Schwab Roth. Norma's grandmother Mary, as well as Elisabeth Kratzer Aeschleman Schwab, Norma's great-grandmother, were original members of the Women's Guild that was formed in 1894.

Rudy Roth and Mary Schwab were married December 6, 1894. Rudy and Mary's home joined the cemetery to the north. Part of this property was sold to our cemetery in 1956. When I was growing up Rudy Roth taught a German Sunday school class. This class was discontinued in the mid-1940's because of a lack of members.

Rudy and Mary were the parents of seven children, all raised in St. Paul's. Norma's mother,

Amelia Roth, second oldest of the seven, was confirmed in 1913, the last year confirmation was taught in German. She married Elias Gradolf, who was born on the farm where Norma now lives. After Elias returned from WWI, Elias and Amelia made their home in St. Louis where Norma and her brother Clyde were born and raised. Norma and Clyde spent many summers and vacations with their Jamestown grandparents.

Norma married William G. Porter in San Diego while he served in WWII. They returned to St. Louis where their first child, Sharon, was born. When Sharon was about four, the Porters and Elias and Amelia moved to the Gradolf family farm. Elias died in 1957 and Amelia in 1965. Norma has been active in St. Paul's most of her adult life, teaching Sunday school, serving as superintendent of the Sunday School, singing in choir, and she was the first woman elected as an elder in our church. Norma and Bill's children – Sharon, Bill and Patty – were all confirmed at St. Paul's. Norma and her family continue to be active members of our church.

--Submitted by Jenice Taggart

Personal Note: Mary Schwab Roth, Norma Porter's grandmother, was a sister to my grandfather, Jacob John Schwab. Both are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery.

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting Monday, September 20, 2021

The September Board Meeting was called to order by President Debi Baumert and opened with prayer led by Pastor Steve Watson.

Those in attendance were Debi Baumert, Mark Rohrbach, Pastor Steve Watson, Ben Marshall, Nancy Haldiman, Mark Oerly and Sandee Eschenbrenner.

The August Minutes were read and approved. The motion to approve was made by Mark Rohrbach and seconded by Ben Marshall. Motion passed.

The August Treasurer's Report was presented by Mark Rohrbach. Mark advised that five (5) Certificates of Deposit are coming due on September 29, 2021. The Board decided to consolidate these certificates and renew at an interest rate of .4%. This motion was made by Ben Marshall and seconded by Mark Oerly. Motion passed. The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Nancy Haldiman. Motion passed.

Courtney Borts, President of the Jamestown Community Pool Board, came before the Church Board to talk about the financial needs of the pool. Courtney wanted the church to know that the pool has a significant financial need as expenses were up this past year and existing savings have been

depleted. Courtney also wanted to thank the church for our continued support through the years and expressed the Pool Board's great appreciation for being included as one of this year's Fall Walk recipients.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Photo Directory: Nancy Haldiman brought the Board up to date on the new directory's progress. The photo sessions went well. We are still waiting on some individual photos to be submitted and those people are being contacted. Nancy has begun submitting information to Kelly Cobb for the actual compilation. Pastor Steve will write an "intro" page and Ben Marshall will work on updating the church activities/history that have occurred since our last directory in 2013.
2. Storage Cabinet: Debi Baumert has spoken to Greg Baer at Baer Brothers concerning getting a bid for the cabinet construction. He did advise that they are busy and, should we accept their bid, it would be several months before they could begin production.
3. Hand Rails: The Board has spoken to Charles Eschenbrenner and Don Ernst regarding this project and they have agreed to do the work.
4. Communion Trays: Mark Oerly advised that he has found trays to match our current set. Nancy Haldiman made the motion for Mark to proceed with the purchase of said trays. Ben Marshall seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. Projector Screen: Ben Marshall advised that he has found a screen to meet our needs. Mark Rohrbach made the motion for Ben to proceed with the purchase. Mark Oerly seconded. Motion passed.
6. Atkins Cleaning: Debi informed the Board that she had located an "original agreement" with Atkins, but no actual contract. The agreement did not include any special job requirements. The Board decided to pursue seeking some new bids for this service. The Board is also open to considering any individual who might be interested in this job.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. September Bills: Mark Rohrbach presented the new bills for September. The motion to pay same was made by Ben Marshall and seconded by Nancy Haldiman. Motion approved.
2. October Walk & Hayride: Our annual walk and hayride will be on Sunday, October 17th. Meet at the church at 1:30 for the walk. Mark Oerly will plan the route. The fish dinner will be at 6:00. Our donations will be divided among the Swimming Pool, Senior Housing and the Community Building.
3. Kitchen Island Faucets: It has been brought to our attention that the faucets on the island in the kitchen need to be replaced. The motion was made by Mark Rohrbach for Ben Marshall to purchase and replace same. The motion was seconded by Mark Oerly. Motion passed.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

We remind everyone that we will soon be finalizing the Family Night schedule for 2022. If you need to be removed from the list or if you would prefer a different month to act as hosts, please advise one of the board Members. Thanks!

We also remind everyone again that we continue to look for those who would supply our Special Music on Sundays. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin Board at the rear of the Sanctuary.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve presented his monthly report including visits, calls and mileage. He advised that the Ministerial Alliance has begun planning the community Thanksgiving Service. It will be held at the Assembly of God Church beginning at 7 PM with Pastor Don Almond delivering the message. He also brought us up to date on the Middle School and WWJD Youth Groups. Thanks to Amber Wilson for organizing the food preparation and to Trisha Meisenheimer for handling the activities. Again, we can use more kitchen help on Wednesday mornings for WWJD. Talk to Pastor Steve to volunteer. Thanks.

Pastor Steve also informed the Board that he will be gone on Sunday, October 24th.

Debi advised that our next Board Meeting will be on Monday, October 18th at 7 PM. After reciting the Lord's Prayer, Pastor Steve was excused and the Board Members remained to analyze and discuss the Pastor Annual Performance Evaluation form. We have now completed St. Paul's portion. Next, Debi will meet with Andrew Rohrbach in order to combine our results with Moniteau's. Debi will then present the combined results to our Board at the October meeting. The final evaluation will be given to Pastor Steve at the Evangelical Council Meeting in November. This yearly evaluation is per our contract with Pastor Steve.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandee Eschenbrenner

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, October 3rd

Sunday, October 17th

Monday, October 18th

Sunday, November 7th

World Wide Communion

Fall Walk & Hayride/Fish Supper

Walk at 1:30/Meal at 6:00

Board Meeting 7 PM

Evangelical Council Meeting at Moniteau 4 PM

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a Future
-Jeremiah 29:11

