

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 6, Volume 4
June, 2020

From Pastor Steve's Desk

In a recent article by Dennis Prager, I read, "'Until it's safe' means 'never.' The pursuit of "safe" over virtually all other considerations is life-suppressing. This is true for your own individual life, and it is true for the life of a society. I always give the following example: I have been taking visitors to Israel for decades, and for all those decades, people have called my radio show to say, 'Dennis, I would so love to visit Israel, but I'm just going to wait until it's safe.' And I've always told these people, 'Then you'll never go.' And sure enough, I've gone there over 20 times, and they never went."

There is inherent risk in life and we certainly want to minimize the risks, but we cannot remove all risk from life. We pray for wisdom to know what to do, when to do it and how to do it to minimize the risk—but it is impossible to remove all risk. For a believer, that is where faith in a good and powerful God is weighed against risk. God is certainly bigger than anything we face individually and as a church family—and He is sovereign enough to know about viruses that our human eye cannot see and yet are a potential threat.

In the past few months, we have been fed a 'tonic' of fear; but, as we have learned more about the nature of the virus, as we have learned about things to do to minimize risk and as we have made changes in our lives, we are at a point of resuming life. It is impossible to live for Jesus, to care for others in the name of Jesus and to be totally isolated from them. Some of the great examples of faith have been those that in the name of Jesus have cared for the sick and dying, risking their own health to make a difference in the name of Jesus.

Here are a few steps which ought to be a regular part of our day

1. Confess our weaknesses and fears to the One that loves you so much that He sent His Son to die for you.
2. Ask Him to lead you through the day, and if it is His will, sustaining you in harm's way.
3. Pray without ceasing, replacing fear with faith.
4. Be willing to live for Him in uncertain times.

Everyone is in a different place dealing with fears and putting the pieces of their lives together. Heed the instructions of the Apostle Paul in 1 Thes. 5: "And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."

Church Events

No Sunday School or Communion until further notice.

June 15 – Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

June 21 – Sunday School Picnic at 6:00 p.m.
Hosts/Hostesses: *Lashley and Joyce Rohrbach; Charles and Neta Dishion; Tim and Amber Wilson; Kathy Reimler; Bob and Lisa Marshall

June 25 – Alex Imhoff Memorial Annual Blood Drive 3-7 p.m.

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Notes from Mary Kay
—continued from last month

These are some things Mary Kay wrote to our children.

“Returning here to some parenting dilemmas I discovered along the way. One of the most helpful things Grandpa Stowe has said to me in years past was "bringing all that you know of yourself to all that you know of Jesus is all any of us can ever do." As I was raising children, I was very aware that I needed God to work in a special way in each of my kids' lives in order that they would see a big separation between what "the church your Dad pastored was" and who Jesus in an ongoing relationship is. At the same time, I was ever conscious that since your Dad was a pastor, we (our whole family) were under a microscope, and I had to take that into consideration with how I handled "private, yet public" events. This first of these I remember encountering was the age at which I allowed our children to participate in communion in a worship service. As always...Seth was the guinea pig. Seth sat with me in church most of the time in Haxtun. Because of this he frequently saw the plates of bread and juice passed during the service...and, of course, was interested in getting to eat and drink some. We spent a significant amount of time at home reading and teaching from the Bible and discussing Biblical issues with you all, so Seth's interest was stimulated very young. Given all these things, he was 3 when he began to ask me if he could take communion, too. My explanation was that Jesus told those who love and follow Him to remember Him each time they took communion. I could find no specific age limit guiding this in the Bible. Seth was very consistent and adamant of his love for and belief in Jesus...and keeping in mind Grandpa Stowe's saying...I asked your Dad to speak to the church board about our intention to let Seth take communion with me before the first time just so they would understand our thinking. I held Seth on my lap for his first communion, helped him, and whispered in his ear simple explanations of each part as well as a prayer thanking and remembering Jesus. If anyone noticed or disagreed, I neither knew of nor heard a complaint. To this day, I struggle with the idea of an "age of accountability". Who can know what and when God speaks into the life and heart of another? In the long run, I think Grandpa Stowe's quote remains what we each must do...each day...every day.

A Word of Thanks

In the past couple of months, teams have been working on our sanctuary—teams of electricians, carpenters, carpet layers and painters. We have appreciated them all but want to make a special mention of Walt Imhoff who had his team repair cracks, skim coat the walls, prime and paint the sanctuary. His team of drywallers and painters invested weeks repairing and making the walls look great. They have not asked for anything, but take some time and thank the LORD Jesus and the Father for such gracious neighbors, and if you see them, let them know how much we appreciate their generosity.

From Healing House

It was all smiles on Saturday, February 1st as family and friends gathered at House of Prayer Family Church to celebrate Jessica Berislavich's commencement from The Healing House and New Beginnings. Executive Director Heather Gieck emphasized in her opening remarks, "We use the term commencement instead of graduation because it's not a completion but a humble, yet beautiful, beginning. A time of going forward and stepping into the beautiful life that God has purposed for Jessica."

Heather described Jessica's journey to The Healing House, coming into the program after spending over a year in county jail and waiting for a vacancy to open before being released. Jessica was ready and willing to do everything that was asked of her in the program and did not require the coaxing as some do when making their early transition. Heather expressed the pleasure to see Jessica reach this moment and shared how their relationship had grown.

Guests shared their love and good wishes for Jessica. Some noted Jessica's habit of spending time very early in the mornings with her Bible before going to work at 5:00am. When she addressed the group, Jessica thanked her family for their love and support. She told of the last time she had gotten into trouble and her parents' decision to not get her out of jail: "Not doing it this time," she quoted. Not understanding at the time and filled with anger, Jessica explained that it turned out to be the best thing for her and she could thank her parents for their decision today. It was while she was in jail that her counselor gave her a Bible that she read over and over and came to personally know the Lord, giving her life to Him while there.

(Cont. on page 3)

(Cont. from page 2)

Jessica offered some of her focus for life. Referring to her early morning Bible studies, Jessica told of starting to write her prayers in a notebook when she was in jail. "Everything I wanted God to change, I wrote in a prayer in my notebook. He has answered me. I have 3 notebooks now." She thanked all the women of The Healing House program for the love and fun. Jessica's beautiful daughter was among those who were there celebrating the changes in her life.

From Our Missionaries—Dettmans

DEAR PARTNERS FOR THE GOSPEL,

"I want to believe in all of the prophets but I'm convinced now that Jesus is the one who sacrificed the most to save us from our unforgivable sins."

"I know Jesus, but I want to understand him. Questions are so important for me to do that. Also I want to understand the Bible more not just read it."

"To be honest I studied the Quran for 3 years. Now I wanna know everything about the Bible and Jesus. I'm searching for the Truth."

"I just prayed [for salvation]. Feels great. Just surrendering to God and having him do whatever he wishes with my life. It feels amazing for some reason."

"I said the prayer [for salvation] right now, and it feels like a barrier in my heart has fallen down."

These are just a few of the reactions our team in Southwinds has gotten from students we've been sharing with online. The last quote was from a student named Moe*. He was raised as a Muslim learning about the Quran, but then began questioning his religion and searching for Truth. He was trying to make sense of things and connected with our team and asked the question: "Is Jesus a prophet or God?" The day after our team shared the Gospel with Moe and he prayed to follow Jesus, he shared that he felt like a war has been waging inside of him between the part that wants to believe and the other who says God doesn't exist. It was leaving him exhausted, and when he would pray through what was happening to him he would feel physically hot.

Despite the enemy's attacks, however, Moe has been faithful to continue coming back for more learning and growth. Our team has taught him about his identity in Christ, being filled with the Spirit, having fellowship with God through confession, prayer, and reading scripture, and about how to share the Gospel with others. Please join us in praying that Moe would continue to grow in his faith during this time!

It's been incredible to see how God has been moving not just in Moe's life, but throughout our country. While our country enters a second month of lockdown, God is moving more than ever. Since the lockdown started, our team in Southwinds has seen 6 people decide to follow Jesus, and the national team in the capital has

seen 56! So far during this school year (starting in September of 2019), our teams have shared the Gospel with more than 1200 students and seen 121 decide to follow Jesus! As people around the country and the world have entered a time of fasting and increased focus on earning their way to Heaven for Ramadan, God's Truth that we have no hope apart from Christ's finished work on the cross is powerfully impacting people's hearts. Please rejoice with us in all the ways God is moving, and pray the His Word would continue to spread! Together for His glory,

The Dettmans

Summer Care Pack Food Drive

Along with New Hope, Grace Methodist and Jamestown Baptist, St. Paul's will be providing care packs to 6-8 children in the Jamestown School District weekly throughout the summer. We will be collecting food now through the end of July. A tote will be available in the basement for food donations. You are welcome to give a monetary donation by simply noting "care packs" in the memo of your check. Because of buying limits, it is difficult for us to purchase as many ravioli/beefaroni cups that we need. If you choose to donate - consider picking up a few of these when you are shopping. We are sending home peanut butter jars and boxes of cereal this summer along with the regular items we collect.

Please consider buying a box or bag of cereal you think the kids would enjoy. Currently, one of my greatest pleasures is feeding my grandson food he loves that he doesn't have at his house. I know Sandee and Big Barry still get so much joy from seeing Robyn help herself to food they buy specifically for her. Many of us have been blessed by doting grandparents or currently fill that role. It is my hope that we can share a little of that love to put food in these kids' bellies and lessen some of the struggles they feel.

Here is a quick list of foods we traditionally send. Ravioli/Beefaroni cups, mac and cheese cups, snack sticks, pop tarts, juice boxes (for the vitamin c), fruit cups, pudding cups, granola bars, fruit bars and fruit snacks (for the vitamin c). Feel encouraged to donate whatever you think is kid friendly and easy to prepare.

Thank you!
Heidi Eschenbrenner

Alex Imhoff Memorial Blood

Drive



The Alex Imhoff Memorial Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, June 25th from 3-7 p.m. at the Jamestown Community Building.

Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org/ to reduce their wait time. Please read and follow directions on signs when you arrive at the Community Building.

The Red Cross will continue to provide an assortment of snacks and drinks for the donors. We are not allowed to provide extra refreshments this year.

--Respectfully Submitted by Heidi Eschenbrenner

Save the Date for VBS

Keeping in mind that definite circumstances and guidelines are everchanging, and that we want to keep the safety of our children and volunteers a top priority, plans are still underway for 2020 VBS. "Knights of North Castle" is scheduled to be held at St. Paul's/Grace UMC, Monday-Thursday, July 13-16 from 6:30-8:50 each evening for ages 4 through completed 6th grade. Gathering and pick-up will be at St. Paul's Evangelical Church.



Children can grow strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the Armor of God.

Watch for upcoming registration information and how we will adapt to COVID-19 guidelines in the church bulletin and July Messenger.

--Submitted by Susan Borts



Congratulations, Graduates!



JHS Kindergarten: Jacob Haldiman, Milayna Meisenheimer, Bryce Schoenthal, Jase Smith

JHS 8th Grade: Connor Gorman, Madison Haldiman, Mikayla Haldiman

JHS Seniors: Keegan Borts, Dalton Oerly, Clark Rohrbach, Brandon Wilson

College: Mackenzie Strother, Central Methodist University; Mickayla Strother, University of Central Missouri; Alexis Muri, Central Methodist University

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

May 16, 2020

The meeting was called order by Don Gerlach and opened with prayer led by Pastor Steve. Those in attendance were Don Gerlach, Mark Rohrbach, Debi Baumert, Pastor Steve, Mark Oerly, Lisa Porter and Sandee Eschenbrenner.

The Secretary's Report was presented and after several typo corrections were made was approved. Motion to approve was made by Debi Baumert and seconded by Mark Oerly.

Mark Rohrbach presented the Treasurer's Report for approval. Motion to approve was made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Debi Baumert.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Seth Rohrbach attended the meeting briefly to report that he had heard from the Mission Trip Advisor offering several options regarding funds paid prior to the trip cancellation. The Board decided to leave the \$4,180.00 already submitted to be applied toward next year's trip. These funds will remain available for 3 years for our use. The Board also decided to return the \$50.00 deposit made by each individual who had signed up for the trip. This motion was made by Debi Baumert and seconded by Mark Oerly.
2. Don Gerlach gave a report on the upstairs renovation. The painting and crack repair were completed by Walt Imhoff's crew. The altar area work is basically completed except for the trim to be reinstalled. Don has contacted Butler Supply regarding the altar area lighting and is waiting for their input. Dutcher's will be laying carpet starting Tuesday, May 26th and indicates completion by June 5th. Don Gerlach has been refinishing the trim (mentioned above) and asked the Board for their approval to continue refinishing the remainder of the trim throughout the sanctuary. Said request was approved. Motion made by Debi Baumert and seconded by Mark Rohrbach.
3. Vacation Bible School is still scheduled as planned. Remember the new dates are July 13th through the 16th.
4. Heidi Eschenbrenner attended the meeting briefly to update the Board regarding "summer" Care Packs (previously Buddy Packs). Along with St. Paul's, 3 other churches are involved - Jamestown Baptist, New Hope Baptist and Grace Methodist. Two families have signed up for the Care Packs and Jamestown School has agreed to deliver said packs once a week. Heidi informed us that each church is being asked for an additional minimum of \$200.00 to support this summer project. The Board agreed to this request. The motion was made by Mark Rohrbach and seconded by Mark Oerly. Heidi also advised that there is the possibility of a food drive occurring in the future as needed.
5. Mark Rohrbach presented the May bills. The motion for payment was made by Debi Baumert and seconded by Mark Oerly.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Board was advised that Camp Aurora will be meeting the end of May to decide whether camp will be open this summer.
2. Don Gerlach advised the Board that some wind damage has occurred to the church shingles, overhang and fascia board. He has contacted Brent Harland in California regarding repairs.
3. The Board discussed options in order to acknowledge the church's appreciation to Walt Imhoff for his donation of painting and repairing walls in the sanctuary. This was no easy or quick task, so in addition to our thanks, the Board is purchasing a Prepaid Credit Card in the amount of \$500.00 to give to him. Motion made by Mark Rohrbach and seconded by Debi Baumert.
4. The Alex Imhoff Annual Blood Drive sponsored by our youth will be held on Thursday, June 25th at the Community Building from 3 to 7 PM. The wearing of masks is encouraged.
5. The Board also discussed the possibility of opening the church and it was decided to begin having services on Sunday, May 24th. We will not have Sunday School until further notice. Pastor Steve agreed to see to the notification of our congregation. Since the sanctuary renovation is incomplete, we will hold service in the Fellowship Hall. Masks will be available, but optional. Communion will be postponed. Motion made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Debi Baumert.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve is continuing to stay in touch via telephone and will begin visitation with whoever is comfortable with same. He has cancelled our Zoom connection and has an upcoming funeral for a non-member this coming week. He will be advising the congregation of reopening of church for Sunday Services.

Don advised that our next Board meeting will be Monday, June 15th at 6:30 PM.

Following reciting the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned. Motion made by Lisa Porter and seconded by Mark Oerly.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandee Eschenbrenner

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Bradley Schoenthal Evan Schoenthal	8	9	10 Karen Schlup	11 Ben Glenn	12 Kim Marshall	13 Cory Reynolds Andy Clay
14	15 Church Board Meeting at 6:30 pm	16 Evan Knierim	17 Jacob Haldiman Evelyn Rohrbach	18 Milayna Meisenheimer	19 Harold Haldiman Mikayla Haldiman Madison Haldiman	20 Margaret Heimericks
21 Sunday School Picnic 6:00	22 Brayden Schoenthal Ethan Schoenthal Caleb Rohrbach	23	24	25 Alex Imhoff Memorial Blood Drive 3-7 p.m. Darren Haldiman	26	27
28	29	30	Sunday School Picnic Hosts/Hostesses: *Lashley and Joyce Rohrbach Charles and Neta Dishion Tim and Amber Wilson Kathy Reimler Bob and Lisa Marshall			