

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 4, Volume 4
April, 2020

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Getting ready for Easter

We are living in an unusual time. The Coronavirus has impacted our lives, our businesses, our social experiences and our worship. Recently, I read an article about the importance of 'distancing' because we might be 'carriers' or we might be exposed to 'carriers' of the virus. If you don't come in contact with the virus, you cannot catch the virus.

The concept is simple and yet profound. Infections are spread by some form of contact—but not only infections. The Christian is to be a 'carrier' of the truth and of the hope that we have in the LORD Jesus. We are to, in a good sense, 'infect' those around us with the truth in such a way that it invades the lives of others and transforms them. Just as a virus infects and does its work in the inner, unseen parts of the body, so we are to pass along the truth of God's Word in such a way that those around us 'catch' real Christianity.

To be a carrier of the virus means, however, that we have the disease—perhaps not all the symptoms are apparent, but the disease has invaded our bodies. To be a carrier of the truth and the hope that we have in the LORD Jesus means that the truth (and hope) must penetrate and become a part of our soul/spirit and heart/mind.

Unfortunately, a person can be infected with the virus and not show any significant symptoms. He can be a carrier and not know it. Spreading the truth is different, the symptoms are what attracts others to want to 'catch' Christianity. When the truth of the Word of God 'infects' a life, that life is transformed to be more loving, more gracious, more kind. When the truth transforms a life, making life better, others (not all, for some love their sin) become interested and open to listening to the truth about Jesus as Savior, Redeemer.

We live in a world where people do not want to catch COVID and if someone has it, they don't want to spread it—but what if we as Christians want to catch more of Jesus and want to spread it to those around. Our world would be changed for spiritual health rather than what we see today in physical illness.

Take time to make sure you have an active case of Christianity and then spread it around.

Church Events

Due to COVID-19, all church events for April have been canceled.

Due to a change in Camp Aurora dates, the dates of **2020 VBS** have been moved from July 20-23 as originally announced, to **July 13-16**. Watch the June Messenger for more information.

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Notes from Mary Kay
—continued from last month

This next story is the second story from me about our experiences in raising teenagers. The theme behind these stories is that the teen years are preparatory to launching a productive, self-disciplined young adult who is able to make choices and be responsible for the choices they make...remembering that teen years are most probably much harder on the teen than on the parents. It is not my purpose to betray confidences nor embarrass my grown children with tales of their past. I've chosen to use "the Child" to identify the teen...our kids will probably know who the story is about...but my purpose is to demonstrate a very alive, involved and interested God who has given us promises we can boldly claim as parents to raise our children "in the way he should go," because God knows who He has created them to become and He has promised us wisdom if we ask for it!

We had two children out of our five who seemed to have more difficulty verbalizing what was going on within them during certain stages of growth. When that happens, I believe it is a parent's job to provide the needed tools to help their child navigate these times. In these times, I found that fervent prayer for wisdom from the Lord specific to the stage and child was always given...and both Steve and I were more than a little awestruck at how God worked. This particular Child struggled with feelings of anger...I sensed it...prayed much about it and for the Child...it was clear the Child could NOT verbalize the feelings...they were suppressed...but clearly, my Child was very angry inside and suffering! I believe my observation was that at age 14 this child quite desperately needed tools to deal with and express the anger constructively to HELP. Things seemed to come to a bit of a head in my book and I took this Child apart and privately to instruct the Child to write

out the feelings...in whatever manner allowed the anger to be expressed. Leave the "note" on our bed for me to find and read. There would be no negative repercussions to anything written. I just wanted this Child to begin to learn it was safe to let the anger out...to express it in whatever terms necessary...to help me understand where this anger was from and needed to be directed in order for our Child not to be smothered by it. I think that very night when I prepared for bed I found the "note." It was fairly lengthy, it certainly expressed A LOT of anger, and it was perfectly clear from where the anger came! When Steve got home some time later, I had him read it...and his response was exactly what mine was: it certainly is clear where the anger is from! I reminded Steve that I had promised NO negative repercussions to what was written. As we prayerfully moved forward from that day with our Child, God provided tools we needed as parents to communicate better with that Child, to acknowledge the struggle this Child was having, to make ways to alleviate the frustration which led to the anger, to help our Child deal with, control, channel the feelings, express them well and appropriately. Today that particular child of ours is probably one of the most compassionate people I know. This child-grown-to-adult feels deeply and cares for people in their world...generously. Trust NOT in your own understanding, lean not on your own insight, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your path...if any of you lack wisdom, ask of God and it will be given you...train up a child in the way he should go and in the end he will not depart from it.

Memory Verse for April, 2020

If you abide in Me and My words abide in You, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. John 15:7

Sermon Series

We have had an interruption in the planned series because of the Coronavirus. I had originally intended to finish the "I AMs" of John before Easter and have a message on Palm Sunday and then of course an Easter message—but things have changed. After Easter, I will be finishing the "I AMs" of John with John 15—"I AM the Vine." It is such a rich passage that it will be divided into two sermons. Read, in preparation, John 15:1-10.

After that, I will be preaching about the "Ordinary Christian Life." There are heroes of the faith, but there are faithful ordinary people. What does God expect of us?

From the Dettman's—our missionaries

Hello family and friends,
We pray you're doing well and staying safe during this time. We wanted to write and give you an update on how COVID-19 has affected our country and work here in Southwinds. Like many of you, our lives have been drastically altered by governmental measures aimed at slowing the spread of the virus. The government enacted a country-wide lockdown yesterday, lasting at least 2 weeks. Land and sea borders are closed, as are all flights. Currently there are 75 confirmed cases in-country, and there have been 3 deaths. We praise God that stores are still stocked and we have everything we need, and that technology gives us lots of options to stay connected and stay busy. We were able to still fellowship Sunday morning via Zoom, a free video conferencing program, and are using the same program to continue our language classes. We've also been taking advantage of some free things people have been putting online to help keep the kids busy and active, such as art classes, animal shows, and kids yoga shows.

Due to the limits on face-to-face interactions, we've had to be creative in how we interact with students. We're working on different strategies for connecting with students through different online platforms like Facebook and Instagram, as well as spending extra time as a team in prayer. This situation provides a unique opportunity for us to show the love of Christ and share the hope that we have, and God's Spirit is moving. Our local staff have already seen three people decide to follow Jesus through online interactions! Praise God that He is still moving and working! Please pray with us that we

would see opportunities we have in our community to help those that need it, whether it's delivering groceries to those that can't leave their house or offering support in other ways.

It can be easy in the midst of this global crisis to feel fearful of what's ahead, but we rejoice that our hope does not rest in our circumstances and is not dependent on our health, finances, or location. Our hope is not found in this world, where diseases run rampant and pain and suffering are inevitable. Our hope is found in God, who entered into the world of human suffering in the person of Jesus Christ in order to save us; not by giving us immediate relief from all suffering, but by guaranteeing for those who follow Him a future world where there will be no more pain or sickness or death.

We'd love to use this time to connect with you, as well. We'd love to know how you're doing, and how we can be praying for you. We'd also love to hear how you've seen God move in this time, or opportunities He's given you to love those around you, together for His glory, the Dettmans

Take time to email Nick and let him know you are praying for him and the ministry. Send email to nwdettman@gmail.com

"I Am"

A poem by Helen Mallicoat

*I was regretting the past,
and fearing the future.
Suddenly my Lord was speaking:
"My name is I Am."*

*He paused. I waited.
He continued...
"When you live in the past,
with its mistakes and regrets,
it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I WAS.*

*When you live in the future,
with its problems and fears,
it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I WILL BE.*

*When you live in this moment
it is not hard. I am here.
My name is I AM."*

WWJD

On March 4 WWJD met with 22 students present and during the devotional, Pastor Steve Watson shared about eagles. His Bible verse, Isaiah 40:31, focused on waiting. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles." He then shared how the believers waited during the Easter season. There were twenty-one students present on March 11, our last Wednesday to meet as school was closed beginning March 18.

As April begins, the earliest that school would resume at JHS is April 20, and even that date is in doubt. Many surrounding schools have announced May 4 as their earliest date. The WWJD adult leaders miss our Wednesdays With Jesus Devotions, and will be ready to greet the children when, and if, school resumes. In the meantime, if you have access to Facebook, Pastor Steve has been posting a daily devotional. Take time to share it with the children in your family.

--Submitted by Susan Borts

Becoming—

A Middle School Spiritual Journey

Using a resource, "The One Minute Bible for Students" we are developing a habit of daily Bible reading. We have had to cancel several Wednesday evenings because of weather, but look forward to returning to the routine. We have five core values:

Honor the LORD Jesus

Grow in our spiritual lives

Connect with other believers

Share the Good News of Salvation with others

Shine by serving in the name of Jesus

Use (and pray for) others to have a heart for teens, praying and perhaps becoming involved. Come and see what we do on Wednesdays. We have discontinued meeting because of the Coronavirus, but want to get together in April and have a parent's night April 29. All parents will be welcome; we will eat together and share the high points for the year.

--Submitted by Pastor Steve

Senior High Youth Group

With everything going on in the world right now, youth group has been on hold and most likely will be for several more weeks.

Mission trip is still on as scheduled for June 14-20. If there are any updates, I will let everyone know.

Please pray for one of our Youth Group members. Brock Heiland's mother passed away in Mid-March and I can imagine how difficult that would be for someone his age and with there being no youth group, he loses that avenue to talk to people about his struggles. Ben and I have both reached out to him and he says he is doing okay but the entire family is still in need of our prayers. Please also pray for all the youth group members (and us!) during this time that we would continue to seek God and use these circumstances for His glory!

--Submitted by Seth Rohrbach

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

March 16, 2020

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

The Secretary's Report was presented and approved. Motion for approval made by Lisa Porter and seconded by Mark Oerly.

The Treasurer's Report was presented and approved. Motion for approval was made by Debi Baumert and seconded by Mark Oerly. The Board discussed the economic benefit that would be obtained by changing to a smaller check size. Mark Rohrbach was given authorization to make the change. Motion made by Debi Baumert and seconded by Mark Oerly.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Regarding the sanctuary renovation, Jerry Frerking is working on repairing the sconce lights and advised that they will be installed before the end of March. Dutcher's is planning on installing the carpeting the week after Easter. The stage area work will begin the final week of March. The overhead ceiling lights are on the low setting and will remain the same until the sconce lights are

installed. The installation of the spotlights and surface light above the choir area is on hold due to several upcoming events being held in the sanctuary. Butzer Electric from Jefferson City will be the contractor and the Board intends to consult with them to determine the optimum location of said spotlights.

2. Vacation Bible School materials have been ordered. It is possible that Vacation Bible School may be moved to an earlier date due to conflicting Camp Aurora dates.

3. Mark Rohrbach presented the March bills. The motion to approve payment was made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Debi Baumert.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Seth Rohrbach met with the Board and gave an update on the Mission Trip which will occur June 14th through the 20th. Sixteen youth and 4 adults are making the trip. Transportation is tentatively arranged. It appears that the Mission Fund balance will be sufficient to cover gas expenses as well as provide a free fun day and meal for the youth while on the trip. To date, Seth has received no input regarding cancellation due to the Coronavirus.

2. Pastor Steve advised that the Jamestown School Baccalaureate Service will be held at St. Paul's on Wednesday, May 13th. A reception will follow in our Fellowship Hall with cake and punch to be served. St. Paul's graduates are Clark Rohrbach, Dalton Oerly and Keegan Borts.

3. The suggestion was brought before the Board to rearrange our church sanctuary by eliminating the double aisles and having a center aisle. It was thought that the current renovation project might be the optimum opportunity for such change. This would also require the purchase of all new, longer pews and possibly an actual loss of seating availability. After some discussion and due to the fact that the current renovation is underway, it was decided to take no action at this time.

4. The Board also discussed the issues regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. The consensus was to continue all services as scheduled. However, if anyone is uncomfortable, please do not feel pressured to attend. Meanwhile, as long as school is in session, our WWJD and youth groups will continue as scheduled.

5. Please be advised that "Tax Exempt" letters are available in the event you are making a sizable purchase for the church. See a Board Member or Pastor Steve to acquire same.

6. The Board also had a discussion regarding our special offerings and who receives same. For example, for years, our Christmas Eve offering has gone to the Evangelical Children's Home - which several years ago became Every Child's Hope. It has come to our attention that although this organization "serves", it does not promote or proclaim Christianity or the gospel. The Board believes it is important that our giving honors Christ and our beliefs and have decided to further investigate our special offerings in order to prioritize who we support.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve presented the Board with a copy of his monthly report. Said report included mileage details, an update of WWJD and the Middle School groups, visitation, and information regarding Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and the Baccalaureate services. He advised that he did not make many personal visits this month due to the virus situation. Also, palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday.

Pastor Steve also spoke to us about his recent attendance at the quarterly District EA Meeting in St. Louis. He is very impressed with the organization. He learned in a conversation with Pastor Barnes that the EA is recruiting pastors and new churches are continuing joining the organization.

He further reported that Warren Graff currently retains the Pleasant Grove Church records. We discussed that perhaps it would be a good idea for either Moniteau or St. Paul to house same. No action or decision was made.

Pastor Steve will be attending a Watson Family Reunion between May 29th and June 2nd. he has arranged for Gary Rogers to be our guest speaker.

Don Gerlach announced that our next Board Meeting will be on Monday, April 20th.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandee Eschenbrenner

Single Seniors

On Thursday, March 5, "Single Seniors" met at the church to have lunch and fellowship. With 16 community members present, it was the first of what will, hopefully, become a monthly gathering. The purpose is for Seniors who are unwed or widowed to get together for socialization. The group had a

discussion and it was decided to get together every first Thursday of the month and have potluck. It was suggested that people bring cards, scrapbooks, dominoes, and memories to be shared through story telling. The Seniors may decide to only eat lunch, only participate in after-lunch activities, or both. Whatever they choose to do, those present agreed this was something they wanted to continue. The next meeting is to be determined.

April 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Due to COVID-19, <u>all</u> church events for April have been canceled.</i></p>			1 Jesse Rohrbach Jason Gattin	2	3	4
			5	6 Caroline Heimericks	7	8
12 <i>Easter</i>	13 Denny Wittenberger	14 Chris Schoenthal Bob Souden Kim Nott	15	16 Joel Gorman	17	18
19 Walter Strein	20	21	22 Melanie Marshall	23	24 Leslie Anson Tanner Gentzsch	25 Steve Derendinger
26	27	28	29	30 Melody Croy Lisa Rohrbach Dorothy Schoenthal		