

# St Paul's Evangelical Church

## The Messenger

Edition 5, Volume 9  
September, 2022

### From the Pastor's Desk

In a few weeks, farmers will be pulling into their fields for harvest. They prepared the soil in the spring. They fertilized. They planted with the best seed for their soil and location. They did everything they could to make it the most productive harvest possible. There is joy when the combines pull into the fields and the grain rolls out into the bin. There is a feeling of satisfaction when the field is fruitful.

Ever wonder if that is the way that God feels? Matthew 13 tells us that you are His field. Matthew 13 tells us that the Word of God is the seed that God plants in your heart and life. Matthew 13 tells us that there are different kinds of soil and not all produce equally even though the seed (the Word of God) is good seed. Some heart soils are too hard for the Word of God to penetrate. No yield from a hard heart! Some heart soil has too many rocks and hard places that do not allow the seed to take root deeply. No yield from a heart that has a lot of hard places. Some heart soil has weeds, the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches that choke the seed's ability to take root and produce God's fruit in the life. No yield, things that compete with the Word of God need to be removed. Some heart soil is productive, but it is interesting what Jesus says of this kind of soil, "*But the seed on the good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times as much.*" The condition of the heart, not hard, not full of hard areas, not filled with things that compete with the Word of God taking root and producing are those hearts that 'hear the word and understand it.' Understanding is essential to be spiritually fruitful for the LORD Jesus.

We have all been in school and know that it is possible to listen to lessons and not understand. It is possible to be able to recite the facts and not understand. Understanding has to do with asking and answering two questions. First, "Why did God write this? What does He want me to know, understand?" Second, "What difference does/should this make in my life?" When you can answer those two questions, you are on your way to understanding.

When I begin to study a passage of Scripture, I read the passage thoughtfully and then I pray, "LORD, why have you written this for me?" Then I wait. When I understand why He has written it, then I am well on my way to understanding it. He is more concerned that you understand that you can know. Pray for understanding. Paul prayed for believers to be, "filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Col. 1

Pray for understanding of God's Word.

### Church Events

**Sept. 4** – Jamestown FFA Breakfast, Community Building, 8-9:30 a.m.

Labor Day Service, Jamestown Park, 9:30 a.m.

\*Normal Service cancelled

**Sept. 18** – Mission Fest, Moniteau Church, 10 a.m.

\*Hosts/Hostesses listed on calendar.

\*No service at St. Paul's

**Sept. 19** – Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Sept. 25** – Confirmation Service during church at St. Paul's

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## From Mary Kay

*One of my favorite stories is that of Esther. I realize there can be a lot of debate about the book, but I like to look at the biblical story of Esther as a shining example of God working in and through a young woman, under special circumstances unique to her situation, in a way that broke all the rules and law He had given His people up to this time...and He directed her so that she might be the instrument by which He saved His (and her) people...for such a time as this. I'm not going to rehearse the story here as I know you are all perfectly capable of reading the entire book for yourself--and I urge you to do so, and see what thoughts you might add. But, in short, Esther was among the survivors of Israel conquered by the Babylonians and dragged off as a captive. We know only that she had with her an uncle (Mordecai)--the rest of her family were dead. Mordecai did all he could to raise her as the God of Israel prescribed in a godless enemy land. We know she was beautiful...enough that though the king's "competition" for a new queen to replace Vashti was immoral and in every way repugnant to an Israeli man and his young niece, Mordecai schooled and prepared Esther to not just do well in what had been chosen for her by her captors, but he seemed to know and understand the voice of the God of Israel, so knew what was ahead for her as Yahweh's doing. Think of the practicalities, the real life scenario, of literally hundreds of virginal young women pampered, perfumed, trained to spend one night with the king (not platonic), after which if he did not choose to make her his queen, she would live the rest of her life in the king's haram: separated from any family, never to marry, never to have children or a home of her own. The story is wonderful for many reasons, but I think one of my favorite (besides God of Israel displaying that obeying rules never could save anybody) is the display of relationship between God, Mordecai, Esther and eventually the king.*

*The other thing I love about this story is that it displays our God's glorious sovereignty through many generations of His chosen people as He leads them, cares for them, works within them as He pursues them to bring about fulfillment of His promises all of which lead to the coming of the Lord Jesus to be the waited for and expected Messiah.*

## Sermon Series

Through the summer, we looked at different kinds of psalms, wisdom psalms, praise psalms, lament psalms, thanksgiving psalms. In September we will begin a series on the Gospel of Mark. There will be a community Labor Day service on Sept. 4 in the shelter at the park. Sept. 11 we will begin in Mark 1. Sept. 18 will be our Mission Fest with Samaritan's Purse and Sept. 25 we will be presenting our Confirmation Class of 2022.

## Good Books—Readers are Leaders

I have to confess, when I was younger, I didn't enjoy reading. As I have grown older, I am amazed that I can buy an individual's best thoughts for a few dollars. For a few dollars I can purchase the consequence of months and even years of research. That is a bargain in my book.

I have recommended "Talking to your Kids about Jesus" by Natasha Crain; and "Prayer in the Night" by Tish Warren. I am presently working my way through "3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager" by Powell and Griffin. In the book they share that teenagers (and in fact all adults) need to ask and answer three questions about Identity, Belonging and Purpose. "Who am I really?" "Where do I belong/fit?" and "What is my purpose?" are three questions that only the LORD Jesus and the Bible can adequately answer. Perhaps you or someone you know struggles with these questions.

A second book, "Depression, a Stubborn Darkness" is a classic by Edward Welch. I recently had the opportunity to refresh and recommend this book. If you or someone you know battles depression this is a gold mine for you.

## Our Missionaries—

Mission Fest, to be held at Advent Moniteau on September 18th this year, will focus on Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse (which is a part of the Billy Graham Association) has developed a unique way to share the Gospel around the world, that opens doors and hearts. You won't want to miss this time.

## Confirmation Class of 2022

On Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> we will be presenting the Confirmation Class of 2022. This is what we have tried to accomplish.

- 1) The story of the Bible
- 2) Basic habits of the Christian life
- 3) Memorize select passages of Scripture including the 10 commandments and the Roman Road (a Gospel presentation)
- 4) The doctrine of the Bible—that it is trustworthy
- 5) The doctrine of God—what He is like
- 6) The doctrine of Salvation—how is a person saved
- 7) The doctrine of the Church—what is the church and what is your part in the church.

We are putting together a book for the church archives which tell a little about each student and what they have come to believe.

Please continue to pray for these teens. Confirmation can be a transforming time or just another thing that is 'checked off.'

## WWJD

We will be beginning WWJD for the Fall of 2022 on September 7<sup>th</sup>. This fall we will be focusing on the Ten Commandments, memorizing them and applying

them. These young people are the future of the church. They need your prayers. We also need helpers. With health issues, we may or may not have some of the helpers we have grown to rely upon. Pray that the LORD would raise up helpers for this ministry.

## Youth Groups

The youth groups began August 24th with a cookout and time when both Senior High and Middle School came together. This fall, the Middle School will be exploring relationships/friendships.

- How to be a Friend of God,
- How to be a Good Friend
- How to choose your Friends

Also, this fall the youth groups will be involved in packing boxes for the Samaritan Purse Ministry.

## Memory Verses for September

Someone asked why I encourage memorizing verses from the Bible; after all, can't we just look it up if we need it? A couple of thoughts. When you memorize something, it becomes a part of you and is with you all the time. The Holy Spirit can bring it to mind if you have memorized it. In Matthew 13, Jesus talks about the Word of God being 'like seed' planted in your heart and mind. Memorization plants the Word of God in our hearts and minds.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23*

*For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD.*

*Romans 6:23*

*But God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

Be working on these verses as a family. Blessings

## **St. Paul's Evangelical Board Meeting**

Monday, August 22, 2022

The August 22, 2022 Board Meeting was called to order by President Ben Marshall and opened with prayer led by Mark Oerly. Those in attendance were Ben Marshall, Lucas Heimericks, Nancy Haldiman, and Mark Oerly. Sandee Eschenbrenner and Pastor Steve were unable to attend. (The St. Paul's meeting was rescheduled at the same time as Moniteau's meeting. Steve presented his report to the board on Sunday August 21st after church.) Ben presented the meeting agenda and it was approved by vote of the Board. One item was added to Old Business. With this addition, Kathy made the motion and it was seconded by Lucas. The Secretary's report was read and approved. Mark made the motion for approval and Lucas seconded. The July Treasurer's report was read and approved. The motion for approval was made by Lucas and seconded by Nancy.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Church Record Book: The record book has been updated to include the marriage of Robyn Eschenbrenner and Kole Holliday.
2. Projector: Kathy made a motion to purchase the projector proposed by Pastor Steve. Mark seconded the motion. The projector will be paid for out of the Middle School Youth Group fund, as the projector will be used predominantly for the Middle School Youth Group.
3. Ceiling Lights: Alden Rohrbach (Farm and Home Electric) completed the ceiling light project (conversion to LED) for the room behind the sanctuary. Many thanks, and to quote Janet Reimler "I can see!"
4. Church Vendor/Contact Listing and Schedule: We are continuing to work on a list of different folks and companies that we use for various services. We will continue to work on this list, gather contact information, etc. as a resource for the current and future boards.
5. Church Mutual Insurance Update: We discussed that Worker's Compensation insurance and Commercial Building insurance policies are through Church Mutual. Lucas offered to have an insurance agent review our current policy information.
6. Paint Strips: Noland Porter has added the step stripes to the main set of front steps. Many thanks to Noland for taking care of this!
7. Samaritan's Purse: After a lengthy multi-board discussion of the Mission Fest presenter (Operation Christian Child through Samaritan's Purse), Nancy suggested that we set a goal to fill and mail 100 shoeboxes (roughly \$3,000). Any additional funds would be sent to Samaritan's Purse to be used for the Operation Christian Child mission as they see fit. We are incredibly excited about this mission and this opportunity to get together with Moniteau to hear their presentation. To get prepared for this mission, please save any of your adult shoeboxes. Mission Fest will start at 10 a.m. at Moniteau Advent Evangelical. A meal will follow; fried chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish. Let's pack the Moniteau!
8. Water Damage: Mark spoke with Johnny Roush. He gave some initial thoughts and will work on a time to come over to review the building in person to give a more thorough assessment of the situation.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Co-Mo AutoPay: Co-Mo Connect has now been setup on Auto-Pay.
2. Prayer Requests: We discussed the prayer request list in the bulletin and how and when folks should be added or removed. To make the prayer list more active and current, we are going to keep anyone that gets added to the prayer list on the list for three weeks. After that, they will come off the list unless someone requests that they go back on the list for another three weeks. We would like to include a specific prayer concern (surgery, chemo, emotional strength, etc.) along with the individual's name. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the prayer list, please let a board member or Olivia Oerly ([oerlyo@outlook.com](mailto:oerlyo@outlook.com)) know.
3. Records for Church: Debi Baumert is continuing to work on organizing the records that will be retained in the new record cabinets. We also discussed that on a minimum basis, at the conclusion of each board year, the documents that should be retained in the cabinet by each board going forward are: each monthly board meeting agenda, monthly secretary's report, monthly treasurer's report, the annual meeting agenda, and the annual meeting minutes. Other documents that are deemed relevant may be retained also.
4. Fish for the Fall Walk: Due to an anticipation in an increase in the price of fish, we have purchased the fish for the fall walk. Thank you to Larry Borts and Lucas Heimericks for thinking ahead!
5. Pastor Evaluation: We began the annual process of performing a pastor evaluation. Ben presented the evaluation template for each board member to take home to consider.

#### PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve presented his monthly report to the board on Sunday August 21. The report included mileage, expenses, and visitations. He provided the information on the projector for purchase to use in the basement, predominantly for the middle school youth group. He provided an update on the Confirmation Classes and noted that the all-class sessions have concluded and now he will be meeting one on one with anyone who had sessions/paperwork to finish up.

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. Thanks to the Oerly and Stevens families for a donation for the use of the Fellowship Hall.
2. Ben advised that our next Board Meeting will be on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. The motion to adjourn was made by Lucas, seconded by Mark and passed by vote of the Board. The meeting was closed by all reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Haldiman in lieu of Sandee Eschenbrenner

# September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Hosts and Hostesses for Mission Fest:</b> *Rusty and Leisa Hees Seth and Lyndsey Stauffer Stephen and Barb Oerly Carol Oerly Lance and Rachel Hees				1	2	3
<b>4</b> Labor Day Jamestown FFA Breakfast 8-9:30 a.m. Community Building  Labor Day Service Jamestown Park 9:30 a.m. *Normal service cancelled  Diane Fowler	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Andrew Nott Patti VonderHaar Landon Marshall	Charles Dishion	Neta Dishion		Anna Hees
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Skylar Schoenthal	Kirby Baumert Ted Rohrbach		Morgan Walters Lauren Imhoff Christen Haile	Stephanie Birkmann	Barb Oerly
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Mission Fest At Moniteau 10 a.m. *No Service at St. Paul's  Stacy Scheidt	St. Paul's Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  Sigrid Nott				Keeley Klund	Bill Birkmann Argo Stauffer
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Confirmation Service during church at St. Paul's  Paulette Reynolds			Vicki Reimler		Christy Baker Rusty Hees Cooper Hees	

