

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 3, Volume 5

From the Pastor's Desk

Sometimes things happen and there is a good response—people say, “That was good, let’s do it again.” It is repeated and after a period of time it becomes a tradition. That is how Christmas decorations began and 4th of July celebrations and everything in between. Lent is a church tradition. We don’t know exactly when or where it began. But traditions, when continued year after year, often lose their significance and meaning, unless the reason is visited regularly.

Lent is one of the traditions for much of the Christian community throughout the world. It was intended to be a preparation time so that people thought deeply about what Jesus did on the cross. Someone thought, that since there was a 40-day fasting preparation of Jesus in the wilderness before His ministry began, so, Lent ought to mirror this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter. Every Sunday was seen as a commemoration of the Sunday of Christ's resurrection and so as a feast day on which fasting was inappropriate. Accordingly, Christians fasted from Monday to Saturday (six days) during six weeks and from Wednesday to Saturday (four days) in the preceding week, thus making up the number of 40 days.

Any tradition that will help us to remember and will cause us to slow down to meditate on the wonder of the eternal Son of God becoming also Son of Man and then offering Himself for our sin is worth doing—but only doing thoughtfully. You may or may not give up something that is important to you (a ‘fast’ from that thing) to help you remember. If you do give up something, do not do it grudgingly, but as a time of ‘blessed’ remembrance of what He gave up for you.

You might take time to ponder and wonder at the words of Paul in Philippians 2, *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Church Events

- March 5** - World Day of Prayer
- March 7** - Evangelical Council Meeting at St. Paul's at 4:00 PM
- March 14** - Special Offering for Salvation Army
- March 15** - Board Meeting at 6:30 PM
- March 21** - Family Night/Talent Night at 6:00 PM
- March 28** - Palm Sunday/Membership Sunday

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From Mary Kay

For one whose faith rests in Jesus Christ, all of life is about what you believe. Every circumstance of your life is framed around what you know to be true about God. If one's beliefs are unclear, one's picture of what is true about God is blurry, one's knowledge of what God says is shaky, all the circumstances and situations of life are skewed, out of balance. I urge you to think about the truth of this for a few moments with me.

A young woman, married only a short while, but long enough for the realities of day to day living with one particular man to set in, finds herself attracted to another. Our society defines this as "falling" into and out of "love", and gives unobstructed permission to divorce and "try again" with the "new love". God says marriage is an earthly picture of His relationship with mankind. One man with one woman for a lifetime. We have been given the privilege of experiencing God creating a picture of the relationship with His people He longs for in OUR relationship with our spouse. Marriage isn't about a mere human commitment. From God's view it's about creating a diamond reflection of Himself that proclaims and displays who He is to a world that doesn't know Him.

A woman, married, children (perhaps a lot of young children), tired, out of shape with no energy to work on that, money tight and accompanying stressors at a maximum; the exhausting sameness and overwhelming feelings of lack of appreciation for the sacrifice her life has become push her into depression and despair. SOMEONE else, SOMETHING else...ANYTHING else seems to be the prescription for happiness she desires. The enemy lures and attracts and promises all she thinks it is she needs...but it's a lie. The truth lies in who God is. HE created her, HE gave her life, HE promises ALL fulfillment, ALL joy, ALL hope by abiding in Him, enduring long while He molds, refines and makes her dry, boring, unloved and unlovely life beautiful in His time. Her trust in God's truth and rejection of Satan's lies he has seeded into the world's solutions will be the thing that holds her children's lives together, the thing that her husband will eventually look back on and acknowledge as what made their family "work". Her faith in God alone can change the course of her family forever.

Married...to the wrong man? He isn't a godly man? He doesn't lead the home as you want to see it go? He isn't romantic? As affectionate as you like? As good a provider as you would like to become accustomed to? A spiritual leader? Remember God is the creator. He created all that is out of nothingness (less than nothingness-- a void). Do you think He is unable to create in your man all He desires to see in his life? God never asks you to put your trust in the man you married. He asks you to place all your confidence in Him alone. You can trust God...even with your husband.

Not married at all? Do you believe that God gives every perfect gift? Is not He the perfect husband? provider? refuge? security? lover of your soul?

Sermon Series

We are in a series leading to Easter from the Gospel of Matthew.

- Feb. 21 A Cleaning, Mt. 21
- Feb. 28 A Questioning, Mt. 22
- Mar. 7 A Warning, Mt. 23
- Mar. 14 A Watching, Mt. 24
- Mar. 21 A Waiting, Mt. 25

There will be Maundy Thursday service at St. Paul's April 1, Good Friday service at Moniteau, April 2.

Memory Verses for March

- Be working on this important verse
For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10
- Be working on this verse as a family. Blessings.

Youth Groups

We have begun for the spring. We invite and need your prayers for the teens, the leaders, the health in the community (when school is canceled, youth group is canceled). The Senior High is working on answering questions that the teens asked, "How to get the most out of your Bible reading," "How to make a difference for Jesus," "How do we put science and the Bible together?" They have had guest speakers help: Karen and Nat Smith on Bible reading, and Ben Smith on creation and the Bible. It is exciting that we have so much talent and knowledge in the church and people willing to share.

The Middle School is looking at "Great Stories of the Bible—How God worked in and through lives." We have a number of people that are sharing their 'present day' stories—showing that God didn't only work in lives in the past, but He is working in lives today. Nat Smith also shared with the Middle School youth. If you would like to share or help, please contact Pastor Steve.

We do need people who will consistently pray—**the work of God begins on our knees.**

Sharing Your Story

It is encouraging to hear how God has worked in your life. If you would like to write a short article about how God has provided or protected, or led, or strengthened, please take the time and write it down. Send that part of your story to pastor Steve at ecmc.Steve@gmail.com to be included in the coming newsletters. The Gospel of Mark tells the story of a man that was delivered from demons. "As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. 19 And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled." (Mark 5)

When we tell others what He has done for us, it glorifies Him, it encourages others ("What He's done for others, He'll do for you" principle) and He uses it in their lives. If you don't know how to start that conversation try this: "I am just so excited, I have to tell somebody. You will never believe what the Lord did for me.

Simple ways to share the Gospel

The most natural way to share the Gospel is to be a friend, to listen and be truly interested in what's happening in the lives of your friend. As you sit and listen, you will discover that people will often share things about struggles, discouragements, frustrations, disappointments, grief. As you listen, honestly, realize that only God can address the needs your friend faces in life. You can ask questions like: How are you coping with that? Where do you find strength for that? What is God teaching you through . . . ?

As you ask questions, not to be nosy but because you truly care, pray for wisdom, asking, "LORD, what would You have me to share with this person? What would You have me do to express Your love for my friend?"

If He gives you a thought, be bold, believe that He has answered your prayer for what to do or what to say to be a 'light' for the Lord Jesus and do it. It might seem 'out of character' for you, but you are there to represent the Lord Jesus, to share the words that Jesus has for your friend, to do something that would minister to him/her in Jesus' name.

Sometimes, I have said things like, "I don't know how I could go through what you are going through without the Lord Jesus' help, strength, wisdom. Have I ever told you how I came to trust in the Lord Jesus? May I share with you?"

The most important thing is in order for God to use you to reach your friend, **you have to 'want God to use you.'** Make it a prayer, every day, "Lord, I will meet someone today that needs what only You can offer—Help me to be ready for that encounter. Fill my heart with Your love and my mind with Your Word and wisdom."

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. When you find a book that helps you, be assured that it will also help others. A great book that is helping me spiritually is, "When the Soul Listens" by Jan Johnson. You can get it on Amazon Kindle. Another book that I would recommend is

Ann Voskamp's "1000 Gifts" also available on Kindle.

Update on the Jesus Storybook Bible

We have given out nearly 60 of these in the last few months. I have asked for 'testimonials' from those that have received them. This is the one that I received from Nancy Haldiman.

"The kids loved reading the Storybook Bible each night. They loved the stories and beautiful illustrations and I loved how each story ties back to Jesus. It was a great read that we will enjoy several times over!"

Another story from Karen Smith on the Jesus Storybook Bible.

"When I am tutoring, one of the activities I ask of my students is to read a portion of a good book and summarize. I am doing this with a young lady from Korea (in 6th grade). Her English vocabulary is fairly small, so I gave her a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible. I was thrilled when her Dad told me that she reads and writes a summary from it daily, without having to be asked."

There is a second book that Mary Kay and I would like to make available to families of children, elementary, and young teens: **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.

Senior High Youth Group

After being snowed out for a couple weeks in February, youth group is back on track and we are continuing to run through questions the youth asked last semester. In February, we were pleased to have Ben Smith (along with his parents) give a presentation to the youth about how dinosaurs fit in with how God created the universe. Ben has an immense amount of knowledge about history, carbon dating, and the arguments non-Christians use to try and disprove the Bible. I think I gained as much knowledge as the youth that week!

The mission trip is still several months away but I believe there are still spots available. Let us know if you know of someone that's interested in going as we can probably find a spot for them.

As we push forward into the spring semester, please pray for Ben, Kim, myself, and the youth. Things get extremely busy in March and April with end of school activities, FFA contests, and spring baseball. Pray that we would all keep our minds and hearts focused on Jesus during these busy times!

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

Monday, February 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer led by Debi Baumert.

Those in attendance were Debi Baumert, Mark Rohrbach, Mark Oerly, Ben Marshall, Nancy Haldiman and Sandee Eschenbrenner. Pastor Steve was absent due to attending Moniteau's Board Meeting.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved after making an additional notation as follows: "The Church Record book has been updated to show that Paige Reimler Fain has transferred her membership." The motion was made by Nancy Haldiman and seconded by Ben Marshall. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was presented and approved. The motion was made by Ben Marshall and seconded by Nancy Haldiman. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Memorial Plaque and Church Record Book: Ben Marshall advised that he has been receiving some returned questionnaires and is updating the information where necessary. If you have not returned your questionnaire, please do so soon so this process can be completed.

2. A second refrigerator has been purchased from Lowe's and should be delivered within several weeks. The old refrigerator has been purchased by Mark Rohrbach.
3. Live Streaming: Ben reported more information gained regarding live streaming after speaking to several knowledgeable individuals and also investigating further costs involved. After an extended discussion, the Board made the decision to discontinue any further research in live streaming at this time.
4. Special Music: To date, no volunteer has approached the Board to fill this position.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mark Rohrbach presented the month's bills. The motion to pay same was made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Ben Marshall. Motion passed.
2. It was brought to the Board's attention that Karen Smith has volunteered to become our Church Librarian. We appreciate this offer and will ask Karen to attend our March meeting to present her ideas and plan.
3. We have received two (2) new outside garbage cans provided by the company. The old containers are in good condition and will be offered to the congregation via sealed bids.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Due to his absence, Pastor Steve presented the Board a paper report for February including mileage, expenses, home communion visits and telephone calls. He further advised his follow-up efforts regarding our scheduled Membership Sunday on March 29th.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. Some months back, the Board presented Walt Imhoff with a thank-you prepaid credit card gift to express our appreciation for the work done free of charge when we renovated the sanctuary area. Walt advised that, in turn, he has passed said gift along to the Special Olympics Fund.
2. Amber Wilson and Trisha Meisenheimer are helping with the Wednesday evening Middle School Youth Group. Help with food offerings would be greatly appreciated.
3. Thanks to Larry Reynolds for providing the tax preparation needed for the church.

REMINDER:

A reminder to us all that the piano prelude is actually the beginning of our worship service. Although we all enjoy our fellowship with each other when we arrive, we encourage and remind everyone to enjoy the prelude music, still your thoughts and begin to prepare your heart for worship. Thanks!

Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15th.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mark Oerly made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Nancy Haldiman. Motion passed. The meeting was closed by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 5 th	World Day of Prayer
March 7 th	Evangelical Council Meeting/St. Paul's/4:00 PM
March 14 th	Special Offering for Salvation Army
March 15 th	Board Meeting/6:30 PM
March 21 st	Family Night/6:00 PM/Talent Night
March 28 th	Palm Sunday/Membership Sunday

Family Night Hosts: *Tony & Trisha Meisenheimer, Barry & Heidi Eschenbrenner, Mark & Lisa Rohrbach, Barb & Dason Klund, and Tim & Amber Wilson

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 World Day of Prayer Kevin Anson Lucas Heimericks	6 Isaiah Heimericks
7 Evangelical Council at St. Paul's, 4:00 p.m.	8	9 Norma Porter	10	11	12 Connie Souden	13
14 Daylight Saving Begins Salvation Army Offering	15 Church Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Start of Spring Matt Oerly
21 Communion Family Night/ Talent Show 6:00 p.m. Kolby Anson	22 Sara Rohrbach	23	24 Ryan Nott	25	26 Christina Derendinger Tim Fowler Nikki Gentzsch	27
28 Palm Sunday	29	30 Dana Knierim	31	Family Night Hosts/Hostesses: *Tony & Trisha Meisenheimer Barry & Heidi Eschenbrenner Mark & Lisa Rohrbach Barb & Dason Klund Tim & Amber Wilson		

St. Paul's Easter Egg Hunt

The Children's Easter Party will be held Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the basement of the church. There will be snacks, crafts, story time, and an egg hunt. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids, cousins; all kids are welcome! If you have any questions or would like to sign up to bring a snack, please contact Nancy Haldiman. If you would like to donate candy for the eggs, please purchase candy that will fit inside regular-sized eggs. Candy donations will be collected from Sunday March 21 – Sunday March 28. Candy can be given to Nancy Haldiman or left in the kitchen (please label that the candy is for the Easter party if you leave it in the kitchen).