

# St Paul's Evangelical Church

## The Messenger

Edition 12, Volume 3  
December, 2019

### From Pastor Steve's Desk

*Giving is not easy—giving the perfect gift is hard work.*

*Being a grandpa, this story in Reader's Digest caught my eye. "Last Christmas, grandpa was feeling his age and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So he decided to send checks to everyone instead. In each card he wrote, 'Buy your own present!' and mailed them early. He enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had received very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what had happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards."*

*Giving the perfect Christmas gift is hard work. It takes thought and insight into the needs of the one who will receive the gift. It costs to give any gift. Often, the person doesn't know what he/she truly needs. A child might take the money and buy candy or toys, when in truth he/she might need socks or a shirt. Even an adult might take the money and buy something that he/she wants rather than what is needed.*

*As God looked at you and me, He knew what we needed could not be bought in a store. It could not be found in a catalogue. What we needed was a Savior because we were sinners. We needed someone that would take our punishment so that we might be forgiven. That is the perfect Christmas gift and the gift that we desire to celebrate not just during the Christmas season but throughout the year. Jesus is a gift that is given individually to each of those that believe—and Jesus is a gift we can give to our friends as we tell them the story of how the Eternal Son of God became a baby in Bethlehem, grew to be a man, proved He was the Son of God by the miracles He performed, died on the cross for our sins and then rose from the dead conquering death. Enjoy this Gift.*

*"You shall call His name Jesus,  
for He shall save His people from their sins."  
Matthew 1:21*

### Church Events

Dec. 1 – First Sunday in Advent, Christmas Program practice after carry in meal

Dec. 8 – Annual Congregational meeting following church service with carry in meal; Christmas program practice follows

Dec. 15 – Christmas program practice after carry in meal

Dec. 16 – Board Meeting at 6:15 pm

Dec. 22 – Dress rehearsal following pizza & soda supper at 6:00 pm

Dec. 24 – Christmas Program at 7:00 pm; Every Child's Hope Offering

#### Annual Meeting Hosts:

\*Darren and Nancy Haldiman  
Kirby and Debi Baumert  
Larry and Sue Ann Reynolds  
Doug and Jackie Cowgill  
Danny and Brenda Haldiman

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# Mission focus

## Notes from Mary Kay

### Updates from our missionaries—the Dettman's

DEAR PARTNERS FOR THE GOSPEL, “Hopefully when I am heading there [we] can work out a bit more with lost souls and bring [people] to Christ. Praying a lot that God use me for His glory there.” As I was reading these messages from Stephen\*, my excitement was growing rapidly. Stephen is a university student in the capital, but he's spending this Fall semester studying down here in Mo-town, the large city right next to Southwinds. We got to meet Stephen in the beginning of the month to hear about his story and his heart for bringing the Gospel to the people here. Stephen grew up with a religious family, but started pushing back against the majority religion during his teenage years. He became agnostic, and began living a “prodigal” lifestyle. After a while, he realized how empty his pursuits left him, and met someone who began teaching him about the Bible. The more he read God's Word, the more he fell in love with Jesus, until he was convinced that he wanted to devote his life to following Him. For the past 6 years he's been learning and growing closer to the Lord, and is excited to gather believers here to meet together regularly. Please join us in praising God for Stephen, and pray that God would use him mightily during his time here in Southwinds and Mo-town! Thank you all for praying for the elections that wrapped up in October. Both the parliamentary elections and presidential elections went smoothly. The elections resulted in a shift towards a more conservative, religious government; the conservative majority religion party won more seats than any other party in the parliament, and the president that was elected has a more conservative leaning than the previous president, and has said he wants to roll back some of the recent freedoms our country has enjoyed. Please continue to pray for the spiritual and political climate of our country, that it would continue to be a place that is open to the Gospel, and that God would use recent events to grow the church here. The first week in November (November 4-8), workers with our company around the world focused on Launch Week, a week to set aside other responsibilities to spend extra time sharing with as many students as possible with the purpose of launching new spiritual movements. Last year, our Launch Week in November was a turning point in our work here: we saw our first two students decide to follow Jesus, and showed the Jesus Film to a group of students, two of which would decide to follow Jesus later in the semester! Many teams use Launch Week to focus on new places/campuses or ones they haven't focused on before. For our team, we took this opportunity to spend Launch Week meeting students in Motown. Thanks for joining us in praying through the Launch Week prayer guide. We'll write again soon about how it went! Together for His glory, The Dettmans

*Over the past year, as I have been writing through this venue (a gift from Steph for Christmas last year), I have very much enjoyed reading thoughts and events I've recorded in journals through the years. As I mentioned several StoryWorth stories a number of weeks ago, I have been a little amazed at some thoughts I had as a young woman that have remained with me throughout the ensuing years relatively unchanged and still speak clearly to my life and soul today. This is one of them, dated July 16, 1979 and noted "thought during prayer time today." The original even had drawings to illustrate.*

*Problems which can arise in lives of believers if they are not allowed adequate time to grow and mature slowly:*

- 1. A seed has the root supply to nourish a seed.*
- 2. A sprout has the root supply to nourish a sprout.*
- 3. A small plant has the root supply to nourish a small plant.*
- 4. Healthy growth in a plant must have an adequate root supply!*
- 5. If a plant is forced to become a tree when it has only the root supply of, say, a sprout or small plant, the tree cannot possibly stand straight and tall much less bear fruit. Somewhere, something, will begin to wither and die in the plant because its root is inadequate to keep it growing healthy.*
- 6. For the most part, we as human beings are only able to observe the plant and not the root. We should maintain the environment of the plant so as to allow the root to sustain a healthy, productive plant.*

## Heading into Christmas

December 1—Why did Jesus Come? 2 Cor. 89  
December 8—How did He come? Luke 1:26-30  
December 15—a guest speaker will share as  
Pastor Steve will be with family for their Christmas  
December 22—From near and far. Mt. 2, Luke 2

There will be Advent candles and readings throughout the month. Thanks to those that have volunteered.

### Verse for December—Matthew 1:21

“You shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins.”

## *Becoming—*

### *A Middle School Spiritual Journey*

Using a resource, “The One Minute Bible for Students” we are developing a habit of daily Bible reading. November 6<sup>th</sup> the kids went to Sky Zone and had a great evening of fun. November 13 and 20 we were focused on the theme of Thanksgiving. Based on the principle in 1 John 4:20, “If we do not love people we can see, how can we love a God we cannot see?” In the same way, I suspect (though I don’t have a verse to back it up), “If we do not give thanks to people we can see, how can we give thanks to a God we cannot see?” We are stressing giving of thanks to those that we see and to the God that we do not see.

In December, we will be making and taking cookies to shut-ins to share with them the love of Jesus.

## Senior High Youth Group

The semester is quickly coming to an end. We only have one more study and the Christmas Party left before we break for Christmas and New Year's. This has been a great semester and I pray God has been working in the lives of our youth in Jamestown.

This past month we finished up our series on Courage and then spent the next couple of weeks covering some different topics. One week, Ben led a discussion on the Holy Spirit which will help us prepare for our study series next semester on the Fruits of the Spirit. The following week Russell Cobb brought his youth group over from California, and the

whole group discussed giving thanks and the importance of having an attitude of gratitude.

Our next Youth Group meeting is December 11, where we will have a Christmas themed discussion. Our final meeting of the semester will be the Christmas party on December 17 which is a Tuesday night. There is a basketball game the following Wednesday, so we looked at the school calendar and there doesn't appear to be any conflicts. Please let me know if anything comes to mind that may conflict with Tuesday, December 17.

--Submitted by Seth Rohrbach

## Christmas Eve Program

December 1: Meal after church, program practice

December 8: Meal after annual meeting, program practice

December 15: Meal after church, program practice done by 1:30

December 22: Pizza Party & Dress Rehearsal at 6:00 P.M.

*Christmas Eve Program at 7:00 P.M.*

## Care Packs

Care Pack collections (formerly known as Buddy Pack) have started for Jamestown School. St. Paul's provides food to the five participating families each weekend during the months of December and January. Extra food will be sent home over the holidays. Our collections run now through the end of December. Please place your donated items in the tote in the basement. The church will also take monetary donations to purchase food items not donated; simply memo your check "care packs." Thank you!

--Submitted by Heidi Eschenbrenner



## WWJD

The children continue to enjoy various activities and a nutritious breakfast each Wednesday. Attendance has been steady with an average of 26.

During the devotional on October 30, Pastor Steve Watson told the story from the book of Daniel of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and how he demanded that people bow down and worship his statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down and were thrown into the fiery furnace. After they were saved in the furnace, Nebuchadnezzar allowed them to worship their God as he had saved them.

Our puppet friend Annabelle visited on November 6. She and adult leader Susan Borts spoke to the children about remembering older people in our church families and community who might not have family near. We can all try to be a better friend and neighbor to those who might be lonely, especially by visiting those who live in nursing homes.

On November 13, Pastor Dennis Maxwell of New Hope Baptist Church led the devotional. After playing the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* on his harmonica, he showed the children several pencils of different sizes, shapes, and colors and all with missing or worn-down erasers. The

pencils were to remind us that people are also different but have one thing in common—we all make mistakes, which are called sins in the Bible. Pastor Dennis then read from 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us.” And just like we are forgiven, we should also forgive others. We all need God’s forgiveness, and Jesus taught us to forgive others as well.

Pastor Steve opened the devotion time with song on November 20, followed by a review of the Bible verse “Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. He then showed the children a picture of a person with leprosy and told the story of the ten lepers found in Luke 17. While all 10 lepers were happy to be healed by Jesus, only one of them chose to show their thankfulness to Jesus. God does good things for us every day, and we often don’t take time to thank Him. We should live a life of thankfulness, just like the one leper who returned to thank Jesus. We should take time to rejoice, pray, and give thanks.

There was no WWJD held on November 27 as the children were on Thanksgiving break. We will resume on December 4 with special Christmas activities and devotionals.

--Submitted by Susan Borts

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### St. Paul’s Evangelical Church Board Meeting November 18, 2019

St. Paul’s Evangelical Church Board met on Monday, November 18, 2019. Present were Don Gerlach, Ted Rohrbach, Barb Oerly, Lisa Porter, Mark Rohrbach, Debi Baumert and Pastor Steve Watson. President Don Gerlach called the meeting to order and Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary’s report: The secretary’s report from the October 21, 2019, meeting was reviewed. Lisa made a motion to approve the minutes and Mark seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s report: A copy of the treasurer’s report was given to all board members and reviewed. Barb made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report and Debi seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### Old Business:

- Church website calendar entries – All dates included below.
- Church record book – John Daniel Haldiman baptism to be recorded.
- Stewardship report – On hold until scope of work needed in the sanctuary is determined.
- Memorial policy review – Table until the next meeting. Barb will prepare a draft of proposed new language for review.
- Video update of church – Pastor Steve will talk to Ben to try and locate.
- Bids for sanctuary – Bid for carpet, electrical work and patching and painting sanctuary will be presented to the congregation on November 24 following the worship service. Ted and Alden checked on lighting and Phillips Electric recommended the lighting not be changed down the center to the sanctuary. They indicated the lights were not as old as we thought.
- Altar renovation estimate – Bids from SDI, LLC were reviewed. There are two separate bids. One for raising the sanctuary floor and adding stairs to the sanctuary and one for a new door on the northeast side of the sanctuary. The bids will be presented to the congregation on November 24 following the worship service. The board will ask Steve Duncan for a drawing so the congregation can visually see the

proposed changes. A drawing will not be available before the meeting on November 24 but the board will get to the congregation as soon as possible for review before the annual meeting.

- New board members – Two potential board members have been approached about serving on the board and have agreed to serve.

#### New Business:

- Approval of bills – Barb made a motion to approve payment of the bills and Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Christmas program discussion – Program practices will follow church services on December 1, 8 and 15.
- Update church budget 2020 – The board reviewed the current budget and made revisions for the 2020 budget. Mark made a motion to present the revised version to the congregation at the annual meeting and Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Pastor evaluation – The board tabled the discussion of the evaluation until the end of the meeting. There was discussion about a topic from the Evangelical Association meeting on November 3. Moniteau Advent and St. Paul's Christmas programs are both on Christmas Eve, Moniteau's at 6:00 pm and St. Paul's at 7:00 pm. Following the Moniteau Advent program there is a time of fellowship for the congregation and visitors. Pastor Steve's presence at Moniteau's fellowship is desired, but not an option when he has to be at St. Paul's to conclude the service. It was decided Pastor Steve will alternate attending between the two churches. In 2019, Pastor Steve will stay at Moniteau following their Christmas program and attend their fellowship. St. Paul's board will work with the Sunday School board to cover the parts of the Christmas program that Pastor Steve normally leads. In 2020, Pastor Steve will attend St. Paul's program. The Moniteau Evangelical board will be notified of our decision. At the January Evangelical Association meeting, the boards can discuss further if needed.
- Leon's Patriot Tree – Sandee Eschenbrenner proposed support of the Patriot Tree program. The program is an opportunity to support local military families through the National Guard Armory. After some discussion, Ted made a motion that we will not support the program at this time but will make a collection jar available for individuals who would like to make a donation. Mark seconded the motion and the motion passed. Lisa will ask Sandee to share details about the program with the congregation during the church service on Sunday and a donation jar will be made available. Information about the program will also be put in the bulletin.

#### Discussion items with Pastor Steve:

- Mileage and pastor's report – Pastor Steve gave board members a copy of the report. The report includes an overview of what has been done over the last few weeks, events coming up, local and traveling visits, phone contacts, mileage details, and expenses incurred.
- Thanksgiving service – Pastor Steve shared that there was confusion regarding the time of the Thanksgiving service. After discussion it was decided that the time would stay at 6:30 pm as the Ministerial Alliance set.
- CMFCAA - Pastor Steve asked about the annual donation made to the CMFCAA. He did not recall seeing information about them. It was shared that DeAnna Alonso was the Mission Fest speaker a few years earlier and the annual donation was added to the budget afterwards. We also had a special offering the last two years to support CMFCAA youth attending Camp Aurora. Barb will contact DeAnna and ask for some updated information about the organization.

Next board meeting will be Monday, December 16, at 6:15 pm.

Pastor Steve left at this time so the board could discuss the pastor evaluation. The board decided to utilize a survey offered by Moniteau Advent board for distribution to the congregation at the special meeting on November 24. The survey covers topics related to the church, church board and Pastor Steve. Surveys can be completed and returned to any board member. The board would like to have all surveys back no later than the annual meeting on Sunday, December 8.

Debi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Oerly  
Secretary

#### Dates to Remember:

Sunday, December 1, 2019 – First Sunday in Advent; Christmas program practice after carry in meal

Sunday, December 8, 2019 – Annual congregational meeting following Church service with carry in meal; Christmas program practice follows

Sunday, December 15, 2019 – Christmas program practice after carry in meal

Monday, December 16, 2019 – Board meeting at 6:15 pm

Sunday, December 22, 2019 – Dress rehearsal following pizza and soda supper at 6:00pm

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 – Christmas Program at 7:00 pm; Every Child's Hope Offering

# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> First Sunday in Advent  Carry in Meal after Church Christmas Program Practice  Kendall Borts	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> WWJD 6:50-7:45 am  Teen Youth group 6:30-8:15  Holly Eschenbrenner Grayden Gatlin	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>     Mark Rohrbach Raleigh Nott
<b>8</b> Annual Congregational Meeting following church Carry in Meal Program Practice  Gage Reynolds	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> WWJD 6:50-7:45 am  Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15  Sandy Gerlach	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>     Rob Reimler
<b>15</b> Carry in Meal after Church  Program Practice	<b>16</b> Board Meeting at 6:15 pm	<b>17</b> High School Youth Group Christmas Party	<b>18</b> WWJD 6:50-7:45 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>    Gabrielle Rohrbach	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Dress Rehearsal following pizza & soda supper at 6:00 pm	<b>23</b>   Dalton Oerly	<b>24</b> Christmas Program at 7:00 pm Every Child's Hope Offering	<b>25</b>   Natoma Elliott	<b>26</b>   Don Gerlach Kim Marshall Lisa Marshall	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>   Steven Borts
<b>29</b>   Mary Haldiman	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Annual Meeting Hosts:</b> *Darren and Nancy Haldiman Kirby and Debi Baumert Larry and Sue Ann Reynolds Doug and Jackie Cowgill Danny and Brenda Haldiman			

--The church board is starting to review the family night host schedule for 2020. If you need to be added, moved or removed please let any board member know. The board will discuss the schedule at the December 16 board meeting.