

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 4, Volume 5
April, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Life is full of unexpected things. A little over a year ago, Covid struck; we were told the country would be 'shutting down' for two weeks to 'flatten the curve' of the pandemic. It is clear from what has happened in the last year, those in authority do not really know what to do when problems arise. Every solution creates another set of problems. God, in His grace (I believe it was God's grace) helped companies develop a vaccine quicker than any time in history and now the most at risk can receive the vaccine. As I look, there are two 'take aways.' 1) Governments and those leading the government are really in above their heads, so it is foolish to trust in governments made up of men; and 2) Since #1 is true, we need to pray for those that are in positions of authority. Paul reminds us of the need for prayer for one another and those in authority in 1 Tim. 4:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Make prayer an increasing part of your spiritual life. Notice that underlying prayer is the knowledge that God desires 'all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.' The implication is that without your prayers people may not come to salvation and a knowledge of the truth—but with your prayers, God will move in the hearts and lives of people.

Life is full of unexpected things. In the last few weeks, St. Paul's has had the sewer back up twice (as of this writing—hoping that we are done with that). It has been an amazing thing to see God graciously provide a cleaning and sanitation service that was quick and very gracious toward our church fellowship. I have seen people in the church step forward to do a lot of 'odd jobs' to make sure that the church facility is available for worship. It has been a blessing to see how people have worked together, maintaining a good attitude, thankful for God's care and provision.

Life is full of unexpected things—unexpected to us, but not unexpected to God. That is why we put our faith and trust in Him, praying for direction when the unexpected happens.

Church Events

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m., meal at 7:00 p.m.
April 2 – Good Friday Service at Moniteau, 7 p.m.
April 4 – Easter Sunrise Service at Jamestown School, 6:30 a.m.
Communion
April 18 - Family Night/Volleyball & cards at 6:00 PM
April 19 - Board Meeting at 6:30 PM

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From Mary Kay

One of the things my mother said about me to me when I was in my early teens was that both she and my dad understood that I needed space and time alone. This is amazing to me in that neither of my parents were really in tune with either their own nor most of their children's emotional make-up. But I stood out even to them as being very much an introvert. The definition of introvert that I base this on is that an introvert is refreshed and renewed by being alone, and needs this time alone in order to be able to expend the energy it requires to be with people. In my teens and early twenties, I was always conflicted by the admonition of many good Christian leaders who would say things like: "If you are alone with someone for even 3 minutes, it is a God-given opportunity to share the gospel with them. You never know, but that your three minutes with them might make the difference in where they spend eternity." Just the thought of this rendered me completely tongue-tied and so self-conscious I could hardly breathe. Fortunately for me, I have a Good, Good Father! He finds so many ways to renew me inwardly, that any more when I am with people, I find it easy to relax and completely enjoy the moment with them. This mixed with a great deal of viewing the world with an ironic humor, has often lead introvert me to have exceptionally fine, deep experiences with others in which I am able to share my complete delight in Jesus in ways that connect. For instance, while working one night at Immanuel Hospital, the conversation among the nurses I was working with turned to current movies...and Mel Gibson's movie about Jesus' crucifixion came up. A number of the nurses had seen it, and they asked me if I had (pretty much giving the idea that of course I had). I responded by saying something to the effect: "I don't think I could bear to watch it any more than I could bear to watch someone beat, torture and crucify my husband or one of my sons." The one nurse in the bunch who I had grown the closest to, and with whom I shared something special, upon hearing this response said to me: "I feel pretty much the same way about watching it, but not so much because I love Jesus, I just can't watch that level of brutality...sometimes I wish I had the kind of faith you have, though, Mary Kay!" On another night at work, I was paired up with just one other nurse on the floor due to the census being quite low. All night long, we needed one another to "witness" our appropriate removal, administration of or wasting of narcotics. This entailed asking one another on the way to the pyxis (the machine which stored all the drugs on each unit): "I need a witness..". This particular nurse was fairly antagonistic about my faith and loved to give me a hard time. The third or fourth time she asked me for a witness, I replied: "Oh...this is just too good an opportunity if you keep asking me for a witness! I'm gonna have to just keep talking to you about Jesus all night!" Even she couldn't resist a chuckle.

Sermon Series

After Easter, we want to finish the book of Colossians.

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|------------------------|--------------------|
| April 11 Col. 3:1-11 | A Transformed Life |
| April 18 Col. 3:12-4:1 | A Transformed Home |
| April 25 Col. 4:2-6 | Reaching Others |
| May 2 Col. 4-18 | Greetings |

Memory Verse for April

Be working on this important verse:

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
Col. 3:4

Be working on this verse as a family. Blessings.

Youth Groups

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.’ On March 17 the Middle School took meals to shut-ins. 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. 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.” 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

Sharing the gospel is just having a normal conversation with another person who does not believe the same things you do. Except instead of talking about football or the weather, you’re telling your story about your God and the things He has done in your life, and letting them know that He can do the same for them too.

Sharing the Gospel isn’t trying to convince the other person that you are right and they are wrong. It isn’t about telling them a great argument so that they will believe. It isn’t trying to get them to stop being such an awful sinner. It’s just sharing who God is, what He’s done for you and explaining why that matters.

The most important thing in order for God to use you to reach your friend is, **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.”

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.

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.

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.

One quick note on the mission trip. The dates for our trip have been pushed up two weeks. The new dates will be June 20-26. We have communicated this with everyone going, and it seems that this date might actually work better than the original one! Please pray that the hearts of the youth and leaders would be prepared to learn, grow, and serve!

--Submitted by Seth Rohrbach

Senior High Youth Group

It seems like the semester has flown by and the second half will go even faster! Over the next few weeks, we will take a break from the submitted questions and do a short Easter series. It is always a powerful feeling when I read the death and resurrection story. Pray that the youth would get that same feeling from the Spirit when we read it with them.

Save the Date for VBS

Planning has begun to prepare for Vacation Bible School in 2021. "Knights of North Castle" is scheduled to be held at St. Paul's/Grace UMC, Monday-Thursday, July 12-15 from 6:30-8:50 each evening for ages 4 through completed 6th grade. Check your monthly Messenger for more information.

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021

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

Those in attendance were Debi Baumert, Mark Rohrbach, Ben Marshall, Nancy Haldiman, Mark Oerly, Pastor Steve and Sandee Eschenbrenner.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved after the correction of Sunday, March 29th to Sunday, March 28th. The motion was made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Nancy Haldiman. Motion passed.

Mark Rohrbach presented the February Treasurer's Report. The motion to approve was made by Ben Marshall and seconded by Mark Oerly. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Church Record Book: Ben advised that he had entered the marriage of Mackenzie Strother and Adam Lohse. The Board also discussed the question of whether following Confirmation, you are officially a member of the church. After consulting the By-Laws, it was determined that was correct.
2. Church Library: Ben Marshall and Pastor Steve talked with Karen Smith to determine her intentions regarding the library. First, she would attempt to organize the materials now available. Second, she would be interested in relocating the library in order to make it more accessible. We also discussed including an insert in the Messenger to determine the congregations' thoughts and interest. A motion was made indicating the Board's support of Karen moving forward with this endeavor. The motion was made by Nancy Haldiman and seconded by Ben Marshall. Motion passed.
3. Used Garbage Cans: The only sealed bids received for these cans were from Nancy Haldiman and Ben Marshall. They each are purchasing one garbage can for \$25.00.
4. Membership Sunday: We remind everyone that if you are interested in joining St. Paul's Church at this time, please contact Pastor Steve so you can be included on Palm Sunday.
5. Men's Bathroom: Last month our water bill from the city indicated we had used a higher-than-normal amount of water. In determining the cause, it was found that one of the toilets was running continuously. In correcting that problem, it was also determined that a shutoff valve will need to be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. March Bills: Mark Rohrbach presented the new bills. The motion to pay same was made by Nancy Haldiman and seconded by Ben Marshall. Motion passed. Also, for your information, one of the bills was for the inspection of our 5 fire extinguishers located throughout the church. All passed the inspection.
2. Sewer Situation: We have received the bill for the sewer cleanup process and it amounts to \$890.53. The motion was made by Nancy Haldiman and seconded by Mark Rohrbach to pay the bill, but also submit it to our insurance company. Motion passed. (Our insurance deductible is \$2,500.00 so although we will not receive any reimbursement, we want to submit this bill in the event any further problems arise.) We also want to inform the congregation that Rainbow International Restoration truly came to our rescue. After contacting several restoration businesses with no success, Rainbow moved us to the top of their list and were on the job the following day. Our thanks to Jeremy Scheuler and Steve Guitard for their quick response and a job well done.
3. Church Photo Directory: Nancy Haldiman presented a request for a new Church Directory. This was also discussed at our semi-annual Evangelical Council Meeting with the Moniteau Board. Our last directory was done in 2013. The company we worked with then no longer does directories and this seems to be the case with several local photographic businesses. Nancy will continue to research and report her findings at our next Board Meeting in April.
4. Vacation Bible School: Susan Borts advised that we intend to have VBS this year. The tentative dates are July 12th through the 15th.
5. Mission Trip: Seth Rohrbach reported that he had received notification that our Mission Trip dates have been changed to June 20th through the 26th. The location remains the same.
6. Basement Entrance Door: Apparently our basement door is not working properly. After some discussion, Sandee volunteered Charles Eschenbrenner to check it out and determine the problem. The motion was made by Ben Marshall and seconded by Mark Rohrbach for Charles to either repair or replace said door. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve reported on his actions this month including the Middle School Youth Group, follow up on Membership Sunday, calls to shut-ins, communion visits, telephone calls, and mileage. He also advised that he will be preaching at the Easter Sunrise Service this year. Grace Methodist is hosting. In addition, he and Mary Kay will celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary by attending a Christian Conference in Branson from the 21st to the 23rd in April. The Board also approved his purchasing of palms for Palm Sunday.

Since we had recently had a discussion regarding Confirmation at our Evangelical Council Meeting with the Moniteau Board, Pastor Steve presented our Board with a detailed report outlining his suggestions for said Confirmation Classes. This report was basically for our review with only a brief discussion following. Pastor Steve asked us to look it over and submit our ideas of input or elimination.

Debi announced that our next Board Meeting will be Monday, April 19th.

Ben made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Nancy. Motion passed. We closed by all reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted, Sandee Eschenbrenner

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| Sunday, March 28 th | Palm Sunday/Membership Day |
| Thursday, April 1 st | Maundy Thursday Service/Arrive at 6:30/Meal at 7:00/Finger Foods |
| Friday, April 2 nd | Good Friday Service at Moniteau/7:00 |
| Sunday, April 4 th | Easter Sunrise Service/Jamestown School/6:30 AM/Breakfast to follow Easter Service/Communion |
| Sunday, April 18th | Family Night/Volleyball &/or Cards |
| Monday, April 19th | Board Meeting/6:30 |

April 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Maundy Thursday Service: Arrive at 6:30 p.m. Meal (finger foods) at 7:00 p.m. Easter Sunrise Service: Jamestown School 6:30 a.m. Breakfast will follow | | | | 1 Maundy Thursday Service Jesse Rohrbach Jason Gatlin | 2 Good Friday Service at Moniteau 7:00 p.m. | 3 |
| 4 Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. Communion | 5 | 6 Caroline Heimericks | 7 Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15 | 8 | 9 Cody Baumert Chayce Klund Kinzie Haile Taylor Baker | 10 Corbin Schaffter |
| 11 Hope Anson | 12 | 13 Denny Wittenberger | 14 Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15 Chris Schoenthal Bob Souden Kim Nott | 15 | 16 Joel Gorman | 17 |
| 18 Family Night Volleyball and/or cards 6:00 p.m. | 19 Church Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. | 20 | 21 Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15 | 22 Melanie Marshall | 23 | 24 Leslie Anson Tanner Gentzsch |
| 25 Steve Derendinger | 26 | 27 | 28 Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15 | 29 | 30 Melody Croy Lisa Rohrbach Dorothy Schoenthal | |

Family Night Hosts/Hostesses:

*Gary & Geraldine Taggart
 Lucas & Christy Heimericks
 Jenice Taggart
 Gary & Paulette Reynolds
 Denny & Glenda Dietzel

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.