

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 5, Volume 8
August, 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

We really don't know what the future holds. It looks as if inflation is going to continue eating away at purchasing power. It might be that a new strain of covid or some similar disease will sweep across the world. It might be that the war in the Ukraine will spread, that supply of food and fuel to Europe will diminish. It might be that major portions of the world will suffer from drought and consequent famine. I am tempted to think about 'everything that might go wrong' believing in Murphy's Law: If anything can go wrong it will and at the worst possible time. We see a lot of suffering and death, disease and problems all around us.

But, we are Christians and we believe in a God of infinite power and knowledge. And we ask, "In all the suffering, where is God? Why does God allow evil and suffering to continue?" It is a question that unbelievers ask those of us that believe and assume that it is proof that God either doesn't exist or that He doesn't care. But then we look at the cross of the LORD Jesus. We still do not know the answer for why God allows suffering and evil to continue, but we do know what the answer isn't. It is not because He does not love us.

God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to suffer and to die in our place, to pay for our sins. It is interesting that He did not choose to escape suffering for His Son. It is interesting that Jesus didn't escape evil, but on the cross was a victim of evil. We don't know exactly how to put the pieces together for we somehow believe that if God truly loves us, He will protect us from suffering and evil—yet He truly, eternally, infinitely, unchangeably loved and loves His Son and yet allowed (and even sent) His Son, the LORD Jesus to suffer and to experience the darkest evil of the cross.

We may not know the answer for why God allows suffering and evil (for a time, for one day He will set everything right), and yet we know that He loves His children. Faith requires us to trust Him, not understand all things. If we understood, we wouldn't have to trust (at least not in the deep way we are called to trust in Him). There is a story of a young child, well loved by his parents. His parents one day took him to the doctor, who examined him and all was well. Then the dad took his son and laid him on his lap. The doctor took a sharp 'thing' and stabbed his little 'behind' and the child cried. If the son could talk, he might have said, "Dad, you told me that you loved me. Why did you allow this man to hurt me? And even worse, you seemed to be a willing participant." He didn't realize at the time of the pain, that he was getting an inoculation that would one day potentially save his life.

Church Events

Aug. 14 – Special Offering – Evangelical Assn.

Communion

Aug. 21 – Family Night; Softball & Homemade Ice Cream @ the Community Park at 6:00 p.m.

Aug. 22 – Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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From Mary Kay

I have split the responses I received into three parts due to length and have edited some, but also want to share as much as I can because we often learn best from others who are walking with Jesus maybe a step or two ahead of us. From my friend who is working up close to 50 years of marriage, continuing from last month:

EMOTIONAL

Women tend to be more emotional than men which can be problematic. Most of my life I have been privileged to work in various positions in male-dominated professions. I quickly learned that an emotional only approach was not very effective in those situations. When it came to the marriage relationship, I also learned that being a good emotional thermostat was a key to problem solving and the family dynamics. The mother sets the emotional tone for the comfort level of her spouse and for the type of desired responses from her children.

HELPMATE

As wives, we are called to be a helpmate to our partner. I have the pleasure and opportunity to have done that daily for decades. Don't get me wrong, it is not always fun, easy, convenient or without stress, but it is always a bonding and learning experience. I began marriage as a quiet, insecure young woman. As a result of my willingness to help my guy, I have expanded my horizons so much and have learned and done things I never would have attempted on my own. I know the names, functions, storage locations and how to use hundreds of tools which is pretty handy - especially when the harvest crew is broken down 40 miles from home and needs help. I can run a multi-state business and make complex decisions even though I've never been formally trained to do so. I can shrewdly wrangle a deal, keep track of complicated finances, argue successfully with service and parts department employees (and car salesmen) and accurately shoot a gun. And yes, I have even operated a bulldozer - once, but that's a story for another time. All of those abilities were acquired as I helped my guy achieve our common goals. Without him, I would have been just another cream-colored flower on a beige wall. I look at marriages where the wife does not have a clue or even care to know about her husband's work or hobbies. How can you really experience closeness or truly understand his perspective without knowing how to help him with something that is important enough to him to take up the majority of his time?

GIVING

I grew up with few material things. Needs were often not met and wants were very seldom met. With that mindset drilled into your psyche, you learn to carefully manage and preserve what little you do have and are not prone to lavish or sacrificial giving to others. But I am married to an amazing bighearted man who has the gift of giving. With him, it is more than that: it is giving and giving and giving and giving. I remember the shock I felt when he first gave something away to someone who "needed" it more than we did. We truly needed that. What was he thinking? What were we going to do to replace it? And yet, our needs were always supplied--not our wants, but our true needs. The more he, which gradually turned into we, gave, the more we were given to give. And that just accelerated. God knew I needed that lesson over and over to break the bondage the past had held on me. And now, decades later, when my guy mentions something we need to give away, I immediately stop what I'm doing and make that happen because I know the Holy Spirit is tapping him on the shoulder at that instant. Like most lessons that loom large in life, there are multiple spin-offs, often unexpected. The practice of giving--especially sacrificially, prepares your heart for continuous gratitude. When you have truly learned how to give with a cheerful heart, without hesitation and without expecting in return, then you do understand that you are here on Earth as the temporary caretaker of "things" which should only be used to minister to people. And with that kind of giving, you are so thankful for everything because you know the source and the purpose.

Our Missionaries—Dettmans

Nick Dettman is planning to come and be with us to catch us up on his ministry on August 21. He will be at Moniteau sharing at 9:30 and at St. Paul's for the morning worship service. He will be coming in on Saturday and leaving on Monday. If you would like to connect with him, we can arrange it. The boards will be making plans for housing and food.

Sermon Series

Through the summer, we will be looking at individual psalms. There are 37 praise psalms, 56 lament psalms, 6 trust psalms, 9 wisdom psalms, 8 thanksgiving psalms and 17 that are classified as hymns. The psalms are a rich source of worship and praise. Join us. If you are not able to attend on a Sunday, be sure to check out the sermons on the websites home page: Stpaulsjamestown.org or moniteachurch.org.

Simple Ways to Share the Gospel

Someone asked, "Can a follower of Christ accept Christ's offer of salvation for himself and refuse to pass it on? Sharing the Gospel is no more complicated than to simply tell others of your experience of Christ's love, so that they might share it. From time to time you will encounter stories of someone being rescued (saved) from a car wreck, from a burning building, from some deranged gunman, from a catastrophe at sea. Each one of those provides a picture of what Jesus' death on the cross meant for us. Tell that story, and then add, "It reminds me of what Jesus did for me . . . "

Good Books

I have been recommending several books for you to consider reading. I had a teacher that said, "Readers are Leaders." To read good thoughts from deep thinkers helps us to be better Christians. Last month I recommended "Talking to your Kids about Jesus" by Natasha Crain. I purchased 20 copies and gave them to people that would make a commitment to read it. This month I ran across a gem, "Prayer in the Night" by Tish Warren. It was selected as one of the best Christian books of 2021—and having recently finished it, it is worthy of that recognition.

Confirmation

This summer we have 16 teens involved in confirmation. We will be learning:

- 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.

Each teen will be writing their own statement of faith (what they believe). Please be praying for these teens. Confirmation can be a transforming time or just another thing that is 'checked off.'

WWJD

The summer time is a time when some of our programs take a break—WWJD is one of those. But it is also a time when the Holy Spirit calls people to think about 'stepping out' in faith and becoming a part. Will you join with us in praying that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into His harvest field (Mt. 9:37-38). It doesn't seem possible, but we will be beginning school this month and shortly thereafter begin WWJD. We need your prayers, your help, your support. We are presently recruiting people to cook (we would like to have enough volunteers so that there will be three in the kitchen and that no one will have to serve more than once a month, unless of course they want to). We could also use a few who would be willing to prepare and present a lesson to the WWJDers.

Memory Verses for August

Be working on these important verses as a family:

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
Blessings

Youth Group

I apologize for not writing an article for the last several months. While we didn't go on a big mission trip this summer, we decided to take a mini-mission trip to Camp Aurora. The trip had some ups and downs as it rained all Friday night and well into the morning on Saturday which was our main work day (I realize this is an ironic statement considering our current rainfall situation). While we were not able to get started on painting, replacing railroad tie steps, and some other projects we had planned, the large amount of rain uncovered several issues with leaks in the cabins. Much of the day's work ended up focusing on water diversion and trenching so the entire camp drains better. We all agreed this was a major God sighting even though many of the projects we planned to do got delayed.

It's crazy to think that the upcoming school year is just around the corner. With Jamestown school starting on 8/22 we plan to get Youth Group rolling again on 8/24. To start, we have a series in mind from Francis Chan who is one of our favorite teachers and always puts out great material. If you know of any high schoolers in the area (especially upcoming Freshman) please reach out to them and let them know about the youth group.

God has decided to bless our local Youth Group since Pastor Brian started it back in 2011. Your prayers are essential if we want to keep the ball rolling. Pray for the youth in our community that they would make Wednesday nights a priority. Pray for their parents, and that they would encourage their children to participate. Pray for the leaders and that God would put a strong passion in their hearts for the youth. Pray that God would make himself known to the youth in our community.

--Submitted by Seth Rohrbach

Food Truck Party VBS

St. Paul's Evangelical, Moniteau Advent Evangelical, and Grace United Methodist churches hosted Vacation Bible School Monday-Thursday, July 11-14, from 6:30 until 8:55 p.m. each evening. Seventy-four children were registered with an average attendance of 70 and over forty adults and teens volunteering as leaders and helpers throughout the week.

Each evening, the children gathered for an opening assembly and were joined by a cupcake puppet named DJ. They shared thoughts about God and worked on learning the week's Bible verse, "Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6:11. Following the opening, the children enjoyed craft projects, science experiments, outdoor recreation, music, snacks, and stories from the Bible.

On the first night, the Bible story came from the Book of Exodus, chapter 16. The children learned about how God provided quail and manna to the Israelites in the desert and that "God is great!" While learning about a widow, her son, and the prophet Elijah from 1 Kings, chapter 17 on the second night, they saw a miracle from God when the flour and oil didn't run out and discovered that "God is good!" The third night brought the story from Daniel, chapter 1 of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who chose to honor their God by refusing to eat the King's special food. Daniel and his friends taught the children that our food comes from God no matter how we receive it and that we should "Let us thank God for our food!" The last night they learned a Bible story from John 21, when Peter and some other disciples go fishing after Jesus died. From this story the children learned how God has given us all the call to love and care for God's people and to trust Him to provide what we need from day to day to carry out this work.

Each evening concluded with a closing assembly, where DJ Cupcake helped the children review what they had learned that evening and practiced their Bible verse. This year's mission offering project was Heifer International. Thanks to the generosity of the children and their families and friends, \$1,250.00 will help this organization to work with people all around the world to end global hunger and poverty.

Parents, grandparents, and friends were invited to join the children in the final closing assembly on Thursday. The children sang the songs they had practiced during music time and members of the grades 5-6 class shared a summary of what was learned during story time each evening. Certificates of attendance were presented by the leaders of each of the four classes.

Thank you to all who helped as organizers, station leaders, class leaders, and helpers throughout the week. Vacation Bible School is certainly a joint effort and would not be successful without the dedication of all those involved.

--Submitted by Susan Borts, VBS Co-Director

St. Paul's Evangelical Board Meeting

Monday, July 18, 2022

The July Board Meeting was called to order by President Ben Marshall and opened with prayer led by Pastor Steve Watson. Those in attendance were Ben Marshall, Pastor Steve Watson, Lucas Heimericks, Mark Oerly, Kathy Reimler, Nancy Haldiman and Sandee Eschenbrenner. Kathy Gerlach, from Moniteau, was also in attendance.

Prior to beginning the actual business meeting, Pastor Steve introduced Michelle and Judy who are representatives of Samaritan's Purse, specifically Operation Christian Child which handles the Shoebox operation. Our September Mission Fest donation will go to Operation Christian Child and Michelle and Judy explained some of the details and benefits involved in supporting this organization. They advised some of the numerous articles that can be packed in each Shoebox, how each Shoebox is designated for a specific age group, the different Drop Off locations, and that you can "track" the boxes after they're mailed to learn where they are delivered. One of the main items stressed was that each box is "prayed over" before shipment - specifically for the child who will eventually receive that box. Michelle will be our guest speaker at Mission Fest in September.

After the guest visitors left, the Board discussed all the different aspects involved. We can simply donate the entire offering, we can pack our own Shoeboxes, or we can do both. We can set a target number of boxes to pack, allow for shipping expenses and then donate the remaining funds. It was decided to table a final decision until Kathy Gerlach can discuss the issue with the Moniteau Board and a combined decision can be made.

Ben presented the Agenda and after adding several items, it was approved by vote of the Board. Nancy made the motion and Mark seconded.

The Secretary's report was read and approved. Nancy made the motion and Lucas seconded.

Kathy presented the Treasurer's report for May. Mark made the motion to approve and Lucas seconded. It passed by vote of the Board. Next, Kathy presented the June Treasurer's report. Lucas made the motion to approve the report and to pay the July bills. Mark seconded and it was passed by vote of the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Church Record Book: The Record Book will be updated to include Matt Oerly's marriage.
2. Vacation Bible School: This year's VBS went extremely well with a daily average of 70 in attendance. Thanks to all who worked so very hard to make it a great success.
3. Elevator Emergency Light: An emergency light is needed in our elevator to conform to state law. Kathy has agreed to attempt to locate one for the Board to purchase.
4. Ceiling Lights: Mark continued his search for a 16-foot ladder in order to change the lights in the room behind the sanctuary. While talking to an electrician, he was again advised to change to LED lights. Mark then talked to Alden Rohrbach to see if he would be interested in submitting a bid using LED lighting. After some discussion, Kathy made the motion to accept Alden's bid of \$780.00 plus the fee for renting a ladder. The church will purchase the bulbs. The motion was seconded by Lucas and passed by vote of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. P.O. Box: The Board made a decision to attempt to eliminate our Post Office Box and transition to receiving all mail at our physical address. Nancy made the motion to renew the P.O. Box for another 6 months to allow for this transition. Lucas seconded and it passed by vote of the Board.
2. Water Damage: The outside stairs at the west end of the new addition have pulled away from the church foundation. In addition, this situation has created some water damage and both issues need attention. Mark agreed to talk to Johnny Roush and get his opinion and advice regarding repairs.

3. Video Projector: After a discussion, it was agreed that a second video projector would be beneficial for the church's activities. Ben and Pastor Steve will investigate what's available and report back to the Board prior to a purchase.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve presented his monthly report. He reported that Confirmation classes are going well. He will be ordering the individual bibles soon. The tentative date for actual Confirmation is Sunday, September 25th. He also reminded us that WWJD and the Youth Group will be starting soon. He wants to emphasize the Ten Commandments with the WWJD and touch on all areas of Friendship with the Youth Group. As usual, additional volunteers are needed and would be helpful.

Ben advised that our next Board Meeting will be Monday, August 22nd. The motion to adjourn was made by Nancy, seconded by Kathy and passed by vote of the Board. The meeting was closed by all reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandee Eschenbrenner

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, July 29th thru Sunday, July 31st	Family Camp at Camp Aurora
Sunday, August 14th	Special Offering/Evangelical Assn. Communion
Sunday, August 21st	Family Night/Softball & Homemade Ice Cream Community Park/6:00 PM
Monday, August 22nd	Board Meeting/7:00 PM

August Family Night Hosts: Seth Rohrbach (Chair)
Mark & Marcy Oerly
Mark & Lisa Rohrbach
Barry & Sandee Eschenbrenner
Jennifer Long

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Danny Haldiman	3	4	5	6
7	8 Jeremy Haldiman Tricia Schaffter	9 Alan Bieri	10	11	12 Evis Stauffer Tim Wilson	13
14 Special Offering Evangelical Assn. Communion	15 Anne Derendinger Teresa Schoenthal	16	17 Mike Scheidt	18 Dianne Marshall	19	20 Abraham Heimericks
21 Family Night Softball & Homemade Ice Cream Community Park at 6:00 p.m.	22 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26 Brenda Haldiman Calvin Schlup	27 Halle Oerly
28 Charles Eschenbrenner Doug Selby	29 Hannah VonderHaar	30	31	<u>Family Night Hosts/Hostesses:</u> *Seth Rohrbach (chair) Mark & Marcy Oerly Mark & Lisa Rohrbach Barry & Sandee Eschenbrenner Jennifer Long		