

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 5, Volume 12
December, 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

Most parents want to be good parents, but too often don't think about what that means, at least not from God's perspective. In a country of abundance, our society defines 'good parenting' as lavishing upon our children a lot of things (more than we had). Especially at Christmas time, parents are expected to lavish their children with things that don't last, will soon be broken or wear out. It is the expectation of the world, but is that what God calls 'good parenting'? In a country of high mobility and activity, our society defines 'good parenting' as having your children involved in as many activities as possible, to take as many trips and vacations as possible, to fill every waking moment with activity. It is the model and expectation of the world and our society, but is that what God calls 'good parenting'? If so, does that mean there weren't any good parents until the age of abundance and activity? We know that is not true. Do we recognize that what the world and our society call 'good parenting' is not the same as what God calls 'good parenting'?

If our desire is to please the Lord, to coordinate with Him in raising our children, then the question becomes, "What does God call 'good parenting' and what does He expect me to do?" Because it is Christmas Season, we focus on Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus and understand that Mary and Joseph were good parents—not just for Jesus, but for the rest of their children (Does it surprise you that they had other children together? Check Mark 3:31). Do you really think that the Father entrusted His Son, the Lord Jesus, to a couple that would be 'bad parents'? If we consider, for a moment, Mary and Joseph and the time in which they lived, we understand that from God's perspective, being a 'good parent' is not about lavishing a lot of stuff on child (for Mary and Joseph were relatively poor), nor is being a 'good parent' about busyness and activity. If being a good parent is not about abundance or activity, then what is 'good parenting' from God's perspective?

Mary and Joseph were both individuals of faith and obedience to God. They trusted Him, His Word, His plan. Mary, when God asked her to be the mother of the Messiah, did not question, doubt nor explain she had plans of her own for her life. She said, "Be it unto me according to Your word." Luke 1:38. In other words, being a good parent is about being a 'good, faithful, obedient believer'. If your children see you listen to and love the Lord Jesus, then you are giving them an example to shape and mold their lives. If you redefine 'good parenting' by God's standards rather than by the world's standards and expectations and begin to live that way, you will one day hear the Lord say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant. I entrusted children to your care and you helped them know Me, love Me, trust Me and walk with Me. Well done!"

Church Events

Dec. 11 – Annual Church Meeting following the church service.

Dec. 19 – Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 21 – High School & Middle School Youth Groups: Caroling & Cookie delivering

Dec. 22 – Pizza & Christmas Eve Service Dress Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.; Special Offering: Healing House

Contact us at:

St Paul's Evangelical Church
149 E. Row St
Jamestown, MO 65046

Phone: for Pastor Steve
319-640-7009
Church: 660-849-2255
E-mail: ecmc.steve@gmail.com

Website: Stpauljamestown.org

Messenger: Julie King
stpaulsjamestown
@outlook.com

From Mary Kay

Continuing with thoughts on conflict, I found this I had written years ago while I was reading Jesus' "the Kingdom of Heaven is like" parables. These are God's perspective on what He is doing, how He is working, going about building His Kingdom:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer sowing good seed in his field; but one night as he slept, his enemy came and sowed thistles among the wheat. When the crop began to grow, the thistles grew, too. The farmer's men came and told him, 'Sir, the field where you planted the choice seed is full of thistles!' 'An enemy has done it,' he exclaimed. 'Shall we pull out the thistles?' they asked. 'No,' he replied. 'You'll hurt the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest, and I will tell the reapers to sort out the thistles and burn them, and put the wheat in the barn.' ... His disciples asked him to explain to them the illustration of the thistles and the wheat. 'All right,' he said, 'I am the farmer who sows the choice seed. The field is the world, and the seed represents the people of the Kingdom; the thistles are the people belonging to Satan. The enemy who sowed the thistles among the wheat is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels. Just as in this story the thistles are separated and burned, so shall it be at the end of the world: I will send my angels and they will separate out of the Kingdom every temptation and all who are evil, and throw them into the furnace and burn them. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the godly shall shine as the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Let those with ears, listen!"

When I feel confused, hurt or angry at the behavior or words of people, I cast myself and the other person as characters in this parable . . . it helps me sort through what God is doing, what He wants me to learn, what my responses should rightly be. Frequently when I hear of sin and its killing power in someone's life and in the church, my heart shouts: "an enemy has done this!"

Another story from the Lord Jesus' teaching:

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by a fisherman—he casts a net into the water and gathers fish of every kind, valuable and worthless. When the net is full, he drags it up onto the beach and sits down and sorts out the edible ones into crates and throws the others away. This is the way it will be at the end of the world—the angels will come and separate the wicked people from the godly, casting the wicked into the fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you understand?"

"He . . . gathers fish of every kind, valuable and worthless . . . ?" When I see this in action in life what does it look like? Perhaps . . . a church filled with people of all walks of life . . . some believers, some searching, some hiding, some hypocrites . . . all gathered and brought together (caught if you will) by God the Father Fisherman? . . . And what does this mean to me today? What response to the other 'fish' is He asking me to give? It brings a hundred questions and thoughts to my mind. These parables open a door to give me a glimpse of the way God works . . . and it is not my way . . . it is much higher, much bigger, so much greater than I can think. I recently spent (or tried to spend) several weeks on the road with family . . . I ended up sick as a dog and having to retreat home to recover. I no longer have questions of the LORD when all my plans get changed like this: I do wonder just what he is up to, though. And secretly laugh within myself, as I acknowledge to Him I haven't a clue what's going on but I'm awfully glad He has it all—and me—in control. I know He knows the whole picture, so I can be at peace with the little bit of 'canvas' I can perceive . . . and I can rest . . . in Him . . . in looking at Him . . . in knowing Him:

*A thousand sparkling stars upon a midnight summer sky
The majesty and wonder of the ocean's endless tide
And the more I see the more I can't explain
How the one who set the world in place
Could even know my name and I'm amazed, I'm so amazed*

*How great You are, how small I am
How awesome is Your mighty hand
And I am captured by the wonder of it all
And I will offer all my praise with all my heart for all my days
How great You are, how great You are, how great You are*

*A million snow-flakes gently fall, yet no two are the same
 For colors fill the canvas of the seasons as the change
 And everywhere I look I see Your hand
 Why You would love someone like me
 I'll never understand and I'm amazed, I'm so amazed
 How great You are, how small I am
 How awesome is Your mighty hand
 And I am captured by the wonder of it all
 And I will offer all my praise with all my heart for all my days
 How great You are, how great You are, how great You are
 (words and music by Dan Dean and Dave Clark)*

From our Missionaries

Nick writes,
 PRAISE GOD:

- that we got connected with Tony and he was encouraged by meeting with our group
- for the weekly meeting and those who come regularly
- for His faithful provision

PRAY WITH US:

- that our student meeting would grow in number and in unity and faith
- for a group of US campus leaders who are exploring a partnership with our country
- for the outreach in the capital
- For Nick during his travels at the end of the month, and for Erica and the girls while he is gone

For more information, check out the prayer letter posted on the bulletin board.

Middle School Youth Group

We have had trouble coordinating schedules in light of the sports events during the fall. It has been a frustration to keep continuity, but we are exploring relationships/ friendships:

How to be a Friend of God, How to be a Good Friend and How to Choose your Friends

Nov. 9th we helped pack boxes for Samaritan's Purse. Over 100 boxes were packed and prayed over. Michelle Hall, our mission speaker, was there to help with packing.

Memory Verse for December

Memorization plants the Word of God in our hearts and minds. Matthew 1:21

*You shall call His name Jesus for He will
 save His people from their sins.*

(The name Jesus, in Hebrew means, 'Jehovah saves.')

WWJD

This Fall we will be focusing on the Ten Commandments, memorizing them and applying them. We have put together a team of helpers involving 12 adults rotating in and out of responsibilities throughout the month. These young people are the future of the church. They need your prayers. We are purchasing 'club' shirts for the kids to wear on Wednesdays with the wwjd/fish logo. Be looking for kids wearing these shirts and pray for them. We had 30 in the club on the week before Thanksgiving break.



Care Pack Program

The Jamestown School weekend care pack program has nine participants this school year. Our church will continue to collect care pack food items through December. Monetary donations to the church are also welcomed. Kid friendly foods being collected include ravioli/spaghetti cups, mac and cheese cups, peanut butter crackers, pop tarts, snack sticks, granola bars, fruit cups, applesauce, pudding cups, and raisins. Feel free to send other items you think may brighten a child's day and help fill their belly. Thank you for your continued support of our local families.

--Submitted by Heidi Eschenbrenner

Christmas Eve Service Practices

Practices will be held during Sunday School from Sunday, November 27-Sunday, December 18. The Pizza and Dress Rehearsal will be held on Thursday, December 22, 6:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

Monday, November 21, 2022

The November 21, 2022 Board Meeting was called to order by President Ben Marshall and opened with prayer led by Pastor Steve. Those in attendance were Ben Marshall, Lucas Heimericks, Nancy Haldiman, Kathy Reimler, Mark Oerly, and Pastor Steve. Sandee Eschenbrenner was unable to attend. Ben presented the meeting agenda. Lucas made the motion and it was seconded by Mark; it was approved by vote of the Board. The Secretary's report was read and approved. Lucas made the motion for approval and Mark seconded. The October Treasurer's report was presented and tabled for approval at the next meeting. The motion to table was made by Nancy and seconded by Mark.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Church Record Book: Mike and Judy Scheidt have been added to the church record book as members of the church.
2. Church Mutual Insurance Update: The church has Commercial Building and Liability insurance policies, as well as Worker's Compensation, through Church Mutual. To ensure we understand our current plans, we plan to have a representative from Church Mutual come to speak to the board (and any interested members) at a meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Payton Ragle, our Church Mutual Account Manager, will be meeting with us. She's out of the Kansas City area. Nancy presented her with a list of questions that we would like her to provide information on. If anyone would like to ask questions or hear more information on our insurance policies, please come! If you would like to send questions to Payton in advance of the meeting, please send them to Nancy and she will forward them on (nancylou22@hotmail.com).
3. Records for Church: Bryan Schoenthal has installed the memorial plaque for the cabinets in honor of Dorothy Schoenthal as her memorial funds were used to pay for the project. Debi Baumert has purchased the binders for us to use in the cabinets for organizing the records. This project is considered complete.
4. Water Damage: The building weatherproofing part of the project on the far west side of the church building has been completed by Brent Roush. We are awaiting John Trachsel to complete the step repair at the far west end of the church.
5. Thermostat Programming: The thermostat programming has been updated.
6. Mission Trip: There are currently twenty youth and five adults attending the Mission Trip. The location has been determined (East Bank, West Virginia). The trip will be June 23 – July 1, 2023. If you have an interest in attending, let Ben Marshall or Seth Rohrbach know **as soon as possible**.
7. Church Vendor/Contact Listing and Schedule: Kathy provided her notes, Ben provided his notes, and Ben obtained notes from Debi Baumert on vendors/regular maintenance items for the church. Ben will update the electronic listing with all the gathered information and will ensure the updated list gets placed in the President's binder.
8. Board Office Responsibilities: We will each review the duties listed for our positions and come to the December meeting with any suggested changes.
9. Chosen People Ministries: Kathy researched this ministry and after providing some information we decided not to propose replacing one of our other missions with this one for a special offering at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CDs: Kathy made a motion to check into calling CDs #14113 and #14166, given their low interest rate of .4%, and reinvesting them into two CDs at a higher rate. She will also look into calling CD #14098 and reinvesting it at a higher interest rate, if the bank advises that the current special rate won't hold until the maturity date of that CD. Lucas seconded; motion passed.
2. Christmas Sunday: We will have a regular church service on Christmas Sunday at the normal time of 10:30 a.m. As set by precedence, we will not have Sunday School on Christmas Sunday.
3. Hand soap in the bathroom: We are having issues with water being added to the hand soap dispensers in the bathrooms again. Kathy has volunteered to maintain the soap dispensers to ensure that they stay full of soap and not water.
4. Kathy has purchased new clocks for the basement and the back of the sanctuary, as the others were not keeping time.

5. Annual Meeting: We discussed the agenda for the annual meeting. We went through the special offerings and family night schedule. These will be presented at the annual meeting.
6. Church Siding: The church siding needs power washed. Ben will speak with Walt Imhoff to see about getting a bid to have this done at some point in the future.
7. Nursery Door Handle: Barb Oerly indicated that the door handle to the nursery door is loose. Lucas will follow up on this.
8. Involving More Youth During Church: Lucas has reached out to some of the young adults within the church about doing the Advent readings. We are also going to train some of the young adults to take offering to get them involved on a regular basis. We plan on starting this after the first of the year and we will see how it goes.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve presented his monthly report to the board. The report included mileage, expenses, and visitations. He is working with the Ministerial Alliance on the Thanksgiving Service. The service will be held at New Hope Baptist this year. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22. Both WWJD and the Middle School Youth Group REALLY need volunteers! Presenting the Good News to children is such an important task of the church, and these are two ways you can get involved with sharing Jesus with children! Please let Pastor Steve know if you have availability to help on Wednesday mornings or evenings!

The motion to adjourn was made by Kathy, seconded by Lucas 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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. Sunday, December 11th: Annual Meeting (Doug and Jackie Cowgill, Danny and Brenda Haldiman, Darren and Nancy Haldiman, Kirby and Debi Baumert, Dick Marshall)
2. Monday, December 19th: Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
3. Wednesday, December 21st: High School and Middle School Youth Groups will do Christmas Caroling and Cookies to Members of the Community
4. Thursday, December 22nd: Pizza and Christmas Eve Service Dress Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
5. Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.
6. December and January: These are our church's months to cover the Buddy Packs. Please keep that in mind when you are out shopping during November and December!

*May the
light that
shone in Bethlehem
shine in your heart
this Christmas*

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Annual Meeting Hosts/Hostesses: *Doug & Jackie Cowgill Danny & Brenda Haldiman Darren & Nancy Haldiman Kirby & Debi Baumert Dick Marshall				1 Kendall Borts	2	3
4 Holly Gatson Grayden Gatlin	5 Roy Nott	6	7 Mark Rohrbach Raleigh Nott	8 Gage Reynolds	9	10
11 Annual Meeting, following church service Sandy Gerlach	12 Lashley Rohrbach	13	14 Rob Reimler	15	16	17
18 Jackie Cowgill	19 Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	20 Gabrielle Rohrbach	21 High School & Middle School Youth Groups; Christmas Caroling & Cookies to Members of the Community	22 Christmas Eve Service Dress Rehearsal and Pizza 6:00 p.m.	23 Dalton Oerly	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.</i> Special Offering: Healing House
25 <i>Christmas</i> No Sunday School Natoma Elliott	26 Don Gerlach Kim Marshall Lisa Marshall	27	28 Steven Borts	29 Mary Haldiman	30	31



Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S
Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U
R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S
N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E
J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J
M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T
D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M
Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



angels
Christmas
donkey
innkeeper
Jesus
Joseph manger
king Mary
 nativity
 salvation
 sheep
 shepherds
 star
 wisemen