

# St Paul's Evangelical Church

## The Messenger

Edition 5, Volume 10  
October, 2022

### From the Pastor's Desk

It has been an interesting summer and a good summer—for the Kingdom. VBS was great and we reached young lives. As school approached, I began to recruit people to help with WWJD and with the Middle School Youth Group. I have been amazed at how many people have a heart for the LORD Jesus, a heart for the church, a heart for ministry to the youth. God has been gracious in moving in the hearts of people, calling them to volunteer, to pray, to make a difference.

The ministry that has drawn my most attention, prayers, and commitment this summer has been a confirmation class. The boards of both churches had decided that we would not have a confirmation class this year—but parents began to express their desire for something for their teens through the summer. I put together a “Confirmation Book”/study guide and we met every two weeks throughout the summer on Wednesday evening, 5:30-7pm. During that time we sought to ask and answer:

Is there a God and how do we know?

What is He like?

What does He want of us? How can we enjoy a relationship with Him?

What is our relationship with other believers?

Along the way of answering those questions, we also sought to teach habits that will help these young adults to grow in their relationship with Him, walk with Him and serve Him. We added several things into the confirmation experience that we hadn't done before. First, we had adults come in and share their personal testimony—so that the teens would know that God is more than just someone or something we talk about, but He is real, He hears and answers prayer, He gives hope, peace, direction. Second, we asked each student to write down a question about the Bible, about God, about life for which they would like to have an answer. I was able to answer their personal questions and also, toward the end of our time together, able to meet with each one personally, talking about their relationship with the LORD.

Someone has said, “We can do more than pray, but we can't do anything until we have prayed.” As we pray, God moves and directs—both in the heart of the teacher and in the students. Consequently, I recruited 12 senior saints to pray specifically for the teens and for myself. God answered those prayers, but the work of walking with the LORD Jesus is just beginning in these young lives. They need your continued prayers, day by day and throughout the year.

### Church Events

Oct. 2 – World Wide Communion

Oct. 16 – Family Night; Fall Walk/Hayride  
(Gathering at 2 pm to turn in donations with walk beginning at 2:30 from church to Kim and Ben's house ending at the cave. Wagons will leave church around 4:20 to meet walkers at Cave Springs to begin hayride. Meal at church at 6 pm.)

Oct. 17 – Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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## From Mary Kay

*The past months I've had a lot of thoughts--from scripture and from personal experiences--related to conflict...especially conflict causing divisions between believers. As much as it would seem that followers of Jesus should be able to get along best with others who follow him, the hard truth is that we often don't...and this is not something new. Probably the reason my thoughts have centered so much around conflict relates to a sharp and unexpected conflict I experienced directly after Mother's Day this year. It threw me completely "off" emotionally, and my spirit within me floundered to find footing. In the upheaval I could not form words to express my feelings, I could barely think through a complete thought. I tried, all I knew, to understand and find resolution to the conflict...all of which failed to illicit anything but a further breakdown in the relationship. Within a month of the initial "break" with this "other," I was left having to accept there was nothing I could do or say to heal nor build something new from what had been. A relationship I thought had grown into something beautiful over decades, was lost to me.*

*I have shared with you all my struggle with depression. I haven't been as open, generally, to discuss the childhood abuses I experienced growing up. I will suffice it to say that I experienced sexual, physical and mental abuses repeatedly throughout my childhood from quite a young age--most within the family I grew up with, but some from outside as well. The amazing thing for me throughout my life, though, has been that even in the times of hurt and pain I had a deep, inward knowledge that God was actively saving me in the moment and giving me His lifeline in each "bad" experience. Jesus had "called me" to belong to Him when I was seven years old, and my soul knew I was His! The "big conflict" of this year and the loss of the relationship I had cherished has settled into the same place within my soul as the hurtful abuses I experienced as a child. It's the place that during my initial acknowledgement of depression I felt I was lost. It's the place where "the world" asks: "Where is God in failure, hurt, pain, loss?" But I know the world is asking the wrong question; the world denies God, yet wants to hold Him responsible for allowing bad things to happen. My soul, my heart, my life belong to GOD. I have no doubt of His existence nor of His sovereignty in my life. I have no doubt of His power nor His love. No doubt of His presence. So, though my unexpected (by me) conflict with the loss of someone and the relationship I cherished has left my soul in a place of darkness and silence, my GOD has let me know that He is WITH me in this place. He is waiting WITH me in the darkness, and His presence WITH me speaks comfort in what otherwise would be silence. He is at work within me, and I am confident in the "other," and though He is not speaking "solution" to me, He is giving comfort and healing in His companionship with me in the silence.*

Charles Spurgeon, a great preacher of a bygone age, suffered from depression and wrote, "I am the subject of depression so fearful that I hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to. But I always get back again by this--I know that I trust Christ. I have no reliance but in Him, and if He falls, I shall fall with Him. But if He does not, I shall not." The book, "**Depression, a Stubborn Darkness,**" is a classic by Edward Welch on the number one mental health issue that faces America. It can be purchased for \$9.99 from Kindle. I recently had the opportunity to refresh and recommend this book. If you or someone you know battles depression this is a gold mine for you.

## Sermon Series

We will be going through the Gospel of Mark beginning in October. It is a huge undertaking, but I hope that you will have the opportunity to walk with the disciples and watch the LORD Jesus as He lives, teaches and heals. I would encourage you to read through the Gospel in coordination with the sermons. The key verse for the Gospel, and our memory verse for October is, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

## Confirmation Class of 2022

On Sept. 25th, we presented the Confirmation Class of 2022. From St. Paul's there were eleven: Hadley, Hayden and Hudson Clay, Owen Gentzsch, Abraham Heimericks, Keeley Klund, Addison Marshall, Olivia Meisenheimer, Katherine Rohrbach, Audrina and Tristan Schoenthal. From Moniteau there were four: Clara Baepler, Lizzie Traub, Halle VanSteenburgh and Jordan Wood. Each church has a book of the students and their statements of faith. Confirmation is not a final step in the spiritual life, but a milestone along the journey of faith. As these go forward in life, they will face trials and temptations, struggles, doubts and fears. They must learn how to 'walk humbly with their God, Micah 6:8' as they journey. Please continue to pray for these teens. Confirmation can be a transforming time or just another thing that is 'checked off.'

## WWJD

We began WWJD for the Fall of 2022 on September 7th. This Fall we will be focusing on the Ten Commandments, memorizing them and applying

them. These young people are the future of the church. They need your prayers. We also need helpers. With health issues, we may or may not have some of the helpers we have grown to rely upon. Pray that the LORD would raise up helpers for this ministry.

## Youth Groups

The youth groups began August 24th with a cookout and time when both Senior High and Middle School came together. This fall, the Middle School will be exploring relationships/friendships.

How to be a Friend of God,  
How to be a Good friend  
How to choose your friends

Also, this fall, the youth groups will be involved in packing boxes for the Samaritan Purse Ministry on Nov. 9th. Michelle Hall, our mission speaker will be coming to help with packing.

## Memory Verse for October

Someone asked why I encourage memorizing verses from the Bible. After all, can't we just look it up if we need it? A couple of thoughts. When you memorize something it becomes a part of you and is with you all the time. The Holy Spirit can bring it to mind if you have memorized it. In Matthew 13, Jesus talks about the Word of God being 'like seed' planted in your heart and mind. Memorization plants the Word of God in our hearts and minds.

Be working on this important verse from Mark 10:45:

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

## **St. Paul's Evangelical Board Meeting**

Monday, September 19, 2022

The September 19, 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. Mark made the motion for approval and Lucas seconded. The July Treasurer's report was read and approved. The motion for approval was made by Nancy and seconded by Lucas.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Church Record Book: No entries were necessary.

2. Church Mutual Insurance Update: Lucas provided an overview of the church's Commercial Building and Liability insurance policies through Church Mutual, based on his discussion with a local insurance professional. Plans to have a representative from Church Mutual come to speak to the board at a future meeting to discuss the policy details are in the works.
3. Mission Fest: We discussed with Moniteau leadership and we felt that the joint service and meal were a success! We discussed ways to improve in the future. We will try to do a better job announcing who to make checks out to and reiterate that the entire offering will go to the mission. Members can start bringing in empty shoe boxes and placing them in the area where we have Children's Sunday School opening. Please bring them here by Sunday, October 30. We still store them in the puppet box for the time being. The youth groups will pack the boxes on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to assist in packing the boxes, feel free to come that night. Ben and Kim Marshall will oversee the purchasing of items to fill the boxes. If you would like to pack a Shoebox on your own, that would be great; just bring it to the church by November 9<sup>th</sup>.
4. Projector: Pastor Steve has purchased the projector and it is here and working.
5. Church Vendor/Contact Listing and Schedule: We are continuing to work on a list of different folks and companies that we use for various services. We will continue to work on this list, gather contact information, etc. as a resource for the current and future boards.
6. Water Damage: Mark Oerly and Johnny Roush reviewed the steps at the far west end of the church. He said we have no water damage. We have some weatherproofing and step repair to do. Kathy made a motion to have Mark request a bid from Brent Roush and John Traschel to perform the repairs. Lucas seconded the motion; motion passed.
7. Confirmation: We discussed logistics for the Confirmation service. Pastor Steve has prepared a binder that includes information on each confirmand for church record purposes.
8. Records for Church: Bryan Schoenthal is still working on a memorial plaque for the cabinets in honor of Dorothy Schoenthal as her memorial funds were used to pay for the project. We appreciate his work to get that done.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. HVAC Reminder: If you adjust the thermostats anywhere in the church, be sure when you leave to press the "Run Program" button when you leave.
2. Board Office Responsibilities: We will table until the October meeting a discussion of the responsibilities of each board position.
3. Mission Trip: There will be a mission trip meeting for parents of high schoolers interested in attending the Mission Trip. They are currently leaning towards a location in West Virginia. The trip is currently anticipated to occur sometime during the last two weeks of June 2023. If you have an interest in attending, let Ben Marshall or Seth Rohrbach know as soon as possible.
4. October Family Night: Ben Marshall and Mark Oerly are organizing the route and will coordinate the trailers.
5. Pastor Evaluation: We discussed the annual pastor evaluation. Ben will work with Moniteau to complete the evaluation information prior to the November Evangelical Council Meeting.

#### PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve presented his monthly report to the board. The report included including mileage, expenses, and visitations. He is working with the Ministerial Alliance on the Thanksgiving Service. New Hope is hosting the service this year. WWJD is off to a good start; MSYG continues to need volunteers. Confirmation will be wrapped up September 25, 2022.

The motion to adjourn was made by Lucas, seconded by Mark 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, September 25<sup>th</sup>: Rally Sunday, 9 a.m.
2. Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Service during church at St. Paul's
3. Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: Mission Trip Parent Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ St. Paul's Church
4. Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>: World Wide Communion
5. Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>: October Family Night – Fall Walk/Hayride: Larry and Susan Borts, Mary Lou Bieri and Gary Schoenthal, Bryan Schoenthal, Michael and Judy Scheidt, Gene Cassil, Steven and Courtney Borts
6. Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

