

## From Pastor Steve's Desk

Getting ready for Easter

We are in the season of Lent—which began this year on Ash Wednesday on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and extends to Easter on April 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a 40-day period of preparation for the soul as we 'journey' toward the time we remember the death of the LORD Jesus for our sins and His conquering death through resurrection. These two events form the foundation of what we believe and proclaim and they are a great mystery. How the eternal Son of God could humble Himself to become also Son of Man (truly the God-Man). How He as God manifest in the flesh humbled Himself further by being tempted in all points as we are yet without sin. He further humbled Himself dying on the cross to pay for the penalty for our sins so that we might be forgiven.

This time of year ought to be approached reverently, solemnly, prayerfully. During this 40-day period we ask you to prepare your heart and life.

Jesus prepared Himself for His ministry by a 40-day fast. He was led into the wilderness by the Spirit and deepened His ability to have the Spirit of God lead His life (immediately after His baptism, the Spirit descended upon Him and began to lead Him, Mt. 3:16-4:1). In a similar fashion, we invite you to become more sensitive to the Spirit's work in your life and allow the Spirit of God to 'lead' your life. As the Spirit works in your life, He might:

- 1. Convict you of sin you need to forsake, Jn. 16:8
- 2. Comfort you in a grief or trial, Jn. 16:7
- 3. Empower you to live more faithfully and fruitfully, Acts 1:8
- 4. Equip you to accomplish something special for Him, 1 Cor. 12
- 5. Help you exalt the LORD Jesus in some way, 1 Cor. 12:3
- 6. Produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life, Gal. 5:22-24
- 7. Help you to pray, Rom. 8:26

Take this time to allow the Spirit of God, given to us to enable us to walk with and serve Jesus, to 'remodel' your life. Blessings.

# **Church Events**

March 1 – Informational Meeting following church

March 5 – Luncheon for Seniors, Pastor Steve will be in St. Louis (EA District Meeting)

March 6 – World Day of Prayer (Moniteau Church)

March 8 – Salvation Army Offering, Congregational meeting following worship

March 15 – Communion, Family Night (Talent Night)

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# Notes from Mary Kay —continued from last month

In my thinking there are two critical times in a child's life when the fact that he (we had two girls...so just using the masculine for ease) is human with a sin nature comes to the forefront and demands a great deal of prayer for wisdom to help the child maneuver with proper perspective through those ages. The first is generally referred to as "the terrible two's" (I've always disliked that term, and generally love a sassy, personality-filled two-year-old). Steve defines this time of life for the child as: a baby, until this time, IS the center of his universe...at around two years of age, the child needs to come to understand that he IS NOT the center of THE universe...and this is generally infuriating to him! To me, this is just exactly what a "terrible two" looks like! If parents are successful in letting their child live past the age of 2-3, and the child learns that he must share the spotlight, the next really critical time for the child is as he enters the teen years. About a teenager, I would first like to say: "these years are harder on the teen than they are the parent!" Secondly: "never forget your job as a parent is to launch this kid...he needs to grow independent and he needs to be responsible for his own independence." Again...this is not a job for mere human beings to try to manage alone. A continuous attitude of prayer for wisdom, insight and understanding from the Lord is required. And, again, He has already promised all of this to us if we ask...so keep asking! And, for fun, I'm going to include (over the next few months) some stories from the Watson-teen-years.

We were having a snow-day in Fremont. The roads had a thick layer of ice covered by several inches of still-falling snow...that would be why we were having a snow-day. The roads were terrible and people needed to stay off of them! However, the Watsons lived just off of downtown--quite a distance from where most of one-Watson-child's friends lived. The friends were all together in their neighborhood at one friend's home...and calling,

calling, calling for their Watson friend to come to where they all were. Finally, the Watson child proposed said trip to the Watson-mom. After all...she had the only car that could possibly make it in these conditions...and he WANTED to go....and his friends WANTED him to come...! Mom thought it over and decided (with Dad's phone input...Dad had hiked to work) the Child should make this decision. The parents gave permission, but were clear the Child should think about it, weigh the pros and cons and make up his own mind about the whole thing. (Mom was really worried...because she was pretty dependent upon that car and had no time or money to repair it.) After a bit, the Child was off...and called to report (I'm sure quite proudly) that he had safely made it to the friend's house. Where he stayed having a great time until well after dark. Mom and Dad getting more concerned since both knew adding the dark to the already terrible ice and snow would have an impact on the driving conditions. When the Child decided it was time to head home, he was a bit concerned because it seemed the headlights on the car would not work. There was very little traffic, and he decided to take back roads as though this was a better idea with no headlights. And it almost worked. The Child made it to a parking lot just two blocks from home where he decided to take a short cut...and rolled into the only other car in the parking lot...a parked car at that. The Child sat and thought for a while trying to figure out what to say to Mom and Dad...the bumper was messed up, the mirror shattered on one door...but other than that...and those darn burned-out headlights...the car worked. So home he went. Owned up to what had happened. With Dad's help replaced the mirror and fixed the bumper. And learned that headlights must be cleared of ice and snow in order to "work" in those conditions. Mom and Dad were very happy lessons were learned with no injury to said Child. Child later said to Mom: "I guess I thought if it was really dangerous you would just tell me 'No'...not let me make the decision to drive despite the weather!"

# Verse for March—2 Cor. 5:17

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold new things have come.

# Sermon series beginning in February continuing in March

"I Am", A poem by Helen Mallicoat

I was regretting the past, and fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking: "My name is I Am."

He paused. I waited.

He continued...
"When you live in the past,
with its mistakes and regrets,
it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I WAS.

When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I WILL BE.

When you live in this moment it is not hard. I am here.
My name is I AM."

If you have not received a copy of this poem, please pick one up for yourself and for a friend in the back of the church.

We will be looking at the 7 'I AMs' of John beginning in February and moving into March. Jesus said.

- "I am the Bread of Life" Jn. 6
- "I am the Light of the World" Jn. 8
- "I am the Door" Jn. 10
- "I am the Good Shepherd" Jn. 10
- "I am the Resurrection and the Life" Jn. 11
- "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" Jn. 14
- "I am the True Vine" Jn. 15

We will explore what Jesus said about Himself.

# Family Night for March—Talent Night, Mar. 15

Get your talent out and share it with us.

Hosts: Barb and Dason Klund
Patti VonderHaar
Tony and Trisha Meisenheimer
Barry and Heidi Eschenbrenner
Mark and Lisa Rohrbach

# **Easter Party!**

The Children's Easter Party will be held Saturday April 11 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 provide a snack, please contact Nancy Haldiman or Lisa Marshall. If you would like to donate candy for the eggs, please purchase candy that will fit inside regular-sized eggs. Candy donations will be collected from Sunday March 29 – Wednesday April 8. The eggs will be stuffed the evening of Wednesday, April 8. Candy can be given to Nancy Haldiman or left in the kitchen (please label that the candy is for the Easter party if you leave it in the kitchen).



# Save the Date

Vacation Bible School 2020 (hosted by St. Paul's, Moniteau Advent, and Grace UMC) will be held Monday-Thursday, July 20-23, from 6:30 to 8:55 each evening.

Cokesbury's *Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor* invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power!

Look for updates and information on registration in upcoming issues of the Messenger. If you have any questions, please call or text Susan Borts at 573-338-1747 or by email at sborts@hotmail.com.

Bad and "iffy" weather affected WWJD during the month of February. We had to cancel on February 5, but attendance still averaged 24 during some cold and snowy mornings the rest of the month.

On February 12th the children enjoyed decorating Valentine cards during activity time. Our puppet friend Annabelle visited for the devotional and reminded the children that, just like the snowflakes that we have seen so many of recently, no two of us are just alike. God has created each of us in a special way, and we should use the talents and abilities that He has given us to bring honor and glory to His name.

Pastor Steve led the children in singing several worship songs before the devotional on February 19th, which was based on the Bible verse from Psalm 37:4: "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Adult leader Kacey Clay led the devotional on February 26th. She shared from Psalm 56:3, "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you." The children participated in an activity letting them put their "trust" in a partner's hand to draw a picture showing how much better we are with our trust in God.

We are all looking forward to the coming of spring, decorating Easter eggs (one of the favorite activities), and warmer walks to the school.

Becoming—

A Middle School Spiritual Journey

Using a resource "The One Minute Bible for Students" we are developing a habit of daily Bible reading. We have had to cancel several Wednesday evenings because of weather, but look forward to returning to the routine. We have five core values:

**Honor** the LORD Jesus **Grow** in our spiritual lives Connect with other believers **Share** the Good News of Salvation with others **Shine** by serving in the name of Jesus

As we look forward to the rest of the year, we will be planning a 'fun night' and also a 'service night.' We have several that help and want to give a great big "Thank You" to those that provide food for our teens as well as Trisha Meisenheimer (activities director), Shawna Williamson and Kathy Reimler (teachers), Greta Leiser (music). We can always use (and pray for) others to have a heart for teens, praying and perhaps becoming involved. Come and see what we do on Wednesdays.

# Senior High Youth Group

The semester is continuing to along. Unfortunately, it seems like there has been snow every Wednesday for the past 6 weeks which has put us a little behind with our study series but we have continued to see good attendance and great participation from the youth.

Please continue to pray for the youth that they could keep their focus on God through the busiest part of the school year. Please also pray for Ben, Kim, and myself as we prepare each week's study and as we continue to make preparations for the mission trip.

# St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting February 17, 2020

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Steve. Those in attendance were Don Gerlach, Mark Rohrbach, Debi Baumert, Pastor Steve, Mark Oerly and Sandee Eschenbrenner. Lisa Porter was unable to attend.

The Secretary's Report was presented. Mark Rohrbach made the motion to approve after making the discussed correction. Mark Oerly seconded. Correction: The minutes read that Denny Diezel would handle the lighting maintenance. The minutes are now corrected to read that he will handle miscellaneous maintenance of the lighting, etc. to include other minor repairs.

The Treasurer's Report was presented. The motion to approve the report was made by Debi Baumert and seconded by Mark Oerly. A discussion followed regarding changing from Excel to Quick Books. The decision was tabled for later review.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. The Easter Sunrise Community Service will be hosted by Grace Methodist Church. The service will be held in the school auditorium as in previous years.

- 2. Pastor Steve has not yet checked on Nadine Hickam's membership (whether St. Paul or Pleasant Grove), but intends to do so this week.
- 3. The "stage" project has been completed. It is now 3 sections which total 15' wide by 4' deep.
- 4. The sanctuary renovation project was discussed (at length!). Don Gerlach and Mark Rohrbach will attempt to install the new lights in the three sanctuary overhead lights. In addition, it was decided that we need to advise the congregation again to explain and obtain their approval for additional electrical installation. Don Gerlach will advise the congregation this Sunday, February 23rd that we will have an "Informational" meeting following worship on Sunday, March 1st which will be followed by a "Congregational" meeting following worship on Sunday, March 8th. The proposed plan to be submitted is to install three spotlights at the front of the church sanctuary to be angled toward the choir and altar area. These lights may be realigned as required. There will also be a surface light installed centered above the choir area.

Don will also discuss our wall sconce lights. It seems many required repair and the cost for same is expensive. Also, if we stay with the current sconces, we cannot increase bulb wattage. We are considering purchasing new sconces and having them installed.

A vote will be taken following the "Congregational" meeting to determine how we proceed.

5. Mark Rohrbach presented the February bills. The motion of approval for payment was made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Sandee Eschenbrenner.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Grace Methodist has advised that they will hereafter be contributing \$150.00 quarterly to be used toward our community youth groups.
- 2. Susan Borts, Mary Jane Snyder (Grace Methodist) and Beth Fennewald (Moniteau) will be heading Bible School this year. They have asked for and received approval to purchase the materials for same. Motion made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Debi Baumert.
- 3. Matt Oerly has asked the Board to again approve a special offering to be used for foster kids to attend Camp Aurora this summer. A discussion followed and a decision was made to schedule the special offering in early May. Motion to approve was made by Sandee Eschenbrenner and seconded by Debi Baumert.
- 4. The Board has been advised that the memorial offerings given in memory of Billy Porter may be used toward our renovation project in the sanctuary. Those offerings designated specifically for the Buddy Packs will be separated and used accordingly.
- 5. Kathy Reimler has contacted the Board regarding using the church fellowship hall monthly for a fellowship gathering of our senior citizens. To promote this new idea, Kathy and Janet Reimler are sponsoring a luncheon on Thursday, March 5th. They have mailed a flyer to the seniors announcing same. If you know of someone you would like included, be sure to check with Kathy to determine if they have been informed.

### PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve gave the board members a copy of his report. Said report included mileage details, an update on the Middle School and WWJD groups, personal and/or nursing home visitations, and tentative plans for a membership drive.

Meeting adjourned. Motion made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Debi Baumert. The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectfully submitted, Sandee Eschenbrenner, Secretary

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Sunday, March 1st - Informational Meeting following Worship

Thursday, March 5th - Luncheon for Seniors in the Fellowship Hall/Noon

- Pastor Steve in St. Louis for EA District Meeting

Friday, March 6th - World Day of Prayer at Moniteau Church

Registration at 9:00 AM and Program at 9:30 AM

Sunday, March 8th - Salvation Army Special Offering

Congregational Meeting following Worship

Sunday, March 15th - Communion

- Family Night (Talent Night)

Monday, March 16th - Church Board Meeting/6:30 PM Saturday, April 11th - Children's Easter Party/10:00 AM

# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Informational Meeting Following Worship	2	3	<b>4</b> WWJD 6:50-7:45 am Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15	Luncheon for Seniors in the Fellowship Hall at Noon Kevin Anson Lucas Heimericks	6 World Day of Prayer at Moniteau Church Registration – 9 a.m. Program – 9:30 a.m.	7
8 Salvation Army Special Offering Congregational Meeting Following Worship	9 Norma Porter	10	<b>11</b> WWJD 6:50-7:45 am Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15	12 Connie Souden	13	14
Communion  Family Night  (Talent Night)	16  Church Board  Meeting  at 6:30 pm	17	<b>18</b> WWJD 6:50-7:45 am Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15	19	20  Matt Oerly	<b>21</b> Kolby Anson
<b>22</b> Sara Rohrbach	23	<b>24</b> Ryan Nott	<b>25</b> WWJD 6:50-7:45 am Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15			28 Carol Oerly
	30  Dana Knierim	31	Family Night Hosts  *Barb and Dason Klund  Patti VonderHaar  Tony and Trisha Meisenheimer  Barry and Heidi Eschenbrenner  Mark and Lisa Rohrbach  Saturday, April 11, Children's Easter Party at 10:00 a.m.			