

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 5, Volume 11
November, 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

There are few people that have marked me in the way my great Aunt Nell did. When she was in her 20s, she was in an elevator accident, (those were the days before all the safety features and inspections), the cable snapped, the elevator plunged 6 floors. When it hit, her spine had been compressed and she wasn't expected to live, but she did. She outlived her parents, her husband, her two sisters. She lived in constant pain from that day until her death. She never had children, so the last few years of her life she lived with my family.

We would take turns praying for the evening meal. She would always, in her prayer ask God to ". . . deepen the gratitude of our hearts." It was strange to hear someone who had so little in life, who couldn't walk without pain, ask our Father not for relief but for an ever more grateful (thankful) heart. As a teenager, it didn't mean much to me. But as I look back and remember, I am struck with the importance of thanksgiving for my spiritual well-being and peace of mind. Anyone can 'give thanks' when things are going well. Some can give thanks when they are going through hard times, thanks because 'it could be worse—so, thank You, LORD, it is not as bad as it could be.' But a truly thankful heart is one that is able, by faith, to believe God is good and has good for us in even the hard things of life (James 1:3-5).

Andre Crouch understood and wrote a song, "Through It All":

*I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow
There've been times I didn't know right from wrong;
But in every situation God gave me blessed consolation
my trials only come to make me strong.*

*Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus
I've learned to trust in God
Through it all, through it all, I've learned to depend upon His Word.*

*... I've been to lots of places, And I've seen a lot of faces
There've been times I felt so all alone. But in my lonely hours
Yes, those precious lonely hours Jesus let me know that I was His own.*

*I thank God for the mountains. And I thank Him for the valleys
I thank Him for the storms He brought me through*

***For if I'd never had a problem I'd never know that He could solve them
I'd never know what faith in God could do.***

"LORD, deepen the gratitude of our hearts in every joy or sorrow."

Church Events

Nov. 6 – Evangelical Council Meeting, 4 p.m., at Moniteau; Daylight Savings Ends

Nov. 20 – Children's Choir will sing during church; Communion

Nov. 20 - Family Night; Carrom/Crokinole; 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 21 – Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Service, 7 p.m., New Hope Baptist Church

Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving

Note: December & January are our church's months to cover Care Packs.

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From Mary Kay

Last month I introduced the thoughts I have been having over the past year or two on conflict. I've been particularly focused on conflict between those who follow the Lord Jesus--because this is a truth the church universal has had to respond to from the beginning. I received some feedback (Thank You! I love feedback!), so want to begin my thoughts by saying that I solely write from my own experiences, and for my part I am not "aiming" darts at anyone. Sometimes I write of "someone" where I combine or interlock more than any single individual in order to obfuscate an identity. I hope you can hear me on this. I have experienced deep conflict with people, and I try hard to let God's Holy Spirit and His Word help me find reason for and restoration through the conflict towards a better relationship with others. Recently, while reading Psalms 34 in the Complete Jewish Bible I found Psalms 34:18 "ADONAI is near those with broken hearts; he saves those whose spirit is crushed." David wrote this acrostic Psalm "when he pretended to be insane before Avimelekh, who then drove him away...." David was a warrior; he presupposes in Psalm 34 that people following the God of Abraham and Israel would experience broken hearts and crushed spirits: deep, painful conflict. In my writings about God's purpose for women as He created them, I write his differing purposes for men and women put them into some conflict with one another. We see examples in the scripture of conflict between Jesus' disciples and the apostles...and I hope to go there at a later date. The standout story that speaks to me of how GOD sovereignly and masterly uses a tool that produces conflict in order to separate and disperse mankind is in Genesis 11. Previously, and not too many generations before this, God destroyed his sinful mankind through a massive flood; saving only Noah, his three sons and his family. It didn't take long for this family to rise up together deciding they would: "...let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves. Otherwise we will be scattered across the face of the entire earth." (Genesis 11:4 ESV) The passage goes on to say: "But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the people had started building and the LORD said, 'If as one people all sharing a common language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be beyond them. Come, let's go down and confuse their language so they won't be able to understand each other.'" (Genesis 11:5-7 ESV) The story tells us how completely the LORD scattered the people all across the face of the earth by confusing their language...their ability to communicate with one another.

As I think of this, I think back over my own life and see that in each conflict I've had with another, misunderstanding one another (or poor communication) plays a big part. My mother used to say to me: "Don't over-estimate the ability of your words to communicate what you thought you said!" I imagine all of you have had the experience while talking with another that you see that each of you is speaking on a plain parallel to, but completely separate from, one another. You just do not connect. This causes conflict. GOD knew it at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11 and used it. He knows it still. And I believe He still is at work in our lives, in His own mysterious way, and still uses misunderstanding in communication as a tool to produce in us that character and relationship with Himself that He desires for each of us. Misunderstandings generally produce some strong feelings in each of the parties involved...and our feelings over the misunderstanding will drive the two involved apart. Hopefully, not forever. But, it could happen. Hopefully, after a season of separateness and a season of humility seeking to understand what GOD would have one

learn, there can be a season of coming together in a new way, with a new or different relationship. If we can learn to hit the pause button when emotions ride high and communication deteriorates, we may find that even the conflict is a God-thing. Certainly in a highly emotional state things can be said and done that necessitate forgiveness to be offered and received before something new can be built—but GOD has already provided for that. His forgiveness is always a constant! He may need to help the parties in conflict to actively engage in giving and receiving forgiveness from another before relationship is restored. I have also experienced relationships which have been broken and never repaired...this is definitely not GOD's way. But I want to challenge you to think that conflict is not always a dirty word, poor communication or miscommunication could, in fact, be the tool our sovereign GOD is using to work His purpose in a thing.

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.

Middle School Youth Group

This fall, the Middle School will be exploring relationships/ friendships:

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

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

Memory Verse for November

Memorization plants the Word of God in our hearts and minds. 1 Thes. 5:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

From our Missionaries

Nick writes, "Last year in Southwinds*, we had our largest team ever, with 8 Americans and 2 locals. With all of that manpower, 440 students heard the Gospel last year! This year, again, the field is ripe for the harvest. Our local student leader, Amy*, told me that as she was meeting Freshmen during the first week of school, many of them told her how they were searching for Truth and wanted to learn more about Christianity without her even bringing it up! And yet, our team has shrunk from 10 people to 5. Whenever I have felt discouraged by that fact, I have had to remind myself that, like Gideon, our success lies not in the number of people we have, but in the greatness of the God that we serve. . . . We have so much to be excited about for this year! Classes have started, and students are back on campus. Our weekly student meeting has started back up again with four regular attendees. We have already been able to meet and share with many students, some of whom are very open to learning more about what the Bible teaches. Please pray with us that, in spite of our smaller team, God would do even bigger things this year than we have yet seen, and that He would grow our student meeting in number and in unity and depth of faith."

**Remember that Nick and Erica minister in a Muslim country. He has asked us not to identify the country.*

Packing Boxes for Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Project

We are planning to pack boxes Nov. 9 at 6:30 pm.

Care Pack Program

The Jamestown School weekend care pack program has nine participants this school year. Our church will be collecting care pack food items throughout the months of November and 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

Senior High Youth Group

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the fall semester. We have continued with our Francis Chan series on the book of Mark. Much of the first 6 chapters have been focused on Jesus as he is training and teaching his disciples. We have tried to encourage the youth to think of themselves as the disciples. After all, much of what Jesus told

his disciples to do he also calls us to do (mainly to follow him!). It's amazing to me that the disciples showed amazing faith to drop everything and follow Jesus, but at the same time also seemed to lack faith in several areas. They see Jesus heal a paralytic, rid people of demons, and bring people back from the dead; however, they think Jesus is going to let them die on the Sea of Galilee when a storm arises.

Now, I certainly don't have any room to judge when it comes to faith and trust, but my prayer is the youth will understand how crucial trusting God with their lives is. They are not living their life for themselves and not trying to accomplish their own agendas. Their goal is to live a life that pleases their maker.

Please pray for the youth in our community. Please pray for the leaders of our Youth Groups.

--Submitted by Seth Rohrbach

Sermon Series

We are continuing our series on the Gospel of Mark. Take time to read through the passages before Sundays. On Nov. 20 we will have a Thanksgiving Message. Nov. 27 we will begin the Advent season.

Give
THANKS
to the Lord
for He is good; His love endures forever.

-1 Chronicles 16:34

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2022

The October 17, 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 September 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: The 2022 confirmation class and Margaret Heimericks 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 future meeting. Nancy has contacted Payton Ragle, our Church Mutual Account Manager, and she is happy to meet with us. She's out of the Kansas City area. We will work on trying to find a weeknight between mid-January to late February that will work. Nancy will work on typing up the questions we currently have to give Payton time to prepare.
3. Mission Fest: Ben and Kim are in the process of ordering supplies for the shoeboxes. The youth groups will pack the boxes on November 9th at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to assist in packing the boxes, feel free to come that night. If you would like to pack a Shoebox on your own, that would be great; just bring it to the church by November 9th.
4. Records for Church: Bryan Schoenthal is still working on obtaining a memorial plaque for the cabinets in honor of Dorothy Schoenthal as her memorial funds were used to pay for the project. Debi Baumert continues to organize church records and will get binders to use for organizing the records. We appreciate the Schoenthal family for the donation and Debi's work to preserve our church's history!
5. Water Damage: Kathy made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 in repair expenses for the building weatherproofing and step repair at the far west end of the church. Nancy Haldiman seconded; motion passed.
6. Thermostat Programming: A reminder that when using the basement thermostat, to "reset" the thermostat, the Fan Setting (lower lefthand corner of the screen) should be set to "Auto" and "Run Program" should be selected. Kathy will reach out to Sorrells Service Company to ask that they look over the thermostats and the furnace in preparation for the winter months.
7. Mission Trip: There are currently sixteen youth and four adults interested in attending the Mission Trip. A deposit will be made (\$50 for each individual is required) for the 20 currently planning on attending the 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**.
8. 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.
9. Board Office Responsibilities: We will table until the November meeting a discussion of the responsibilities of each board position.
10. Chosen People Ministries: They have reached out to us to see if we want them to come speak at our church. (Their standard practice is to speak for a love offering.) Kathy will research this organization as a potential special offering for 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CDs: We have two CDs maturing November 4, 2022. Lucas made a motion to combine the two November CDs (#14062, #14063) together (approximately \$25,000) into one CD. Kathy will consult with the bank which term will provide the best rate. Mark Oerly seconded; motion passed.
2. Evangelical Council Meeting: The meeting will be November 6, at Moniteau Advent Evangelical at 4 p.m. Moniteau will host a meal after the meeting.
3. We briefly discussed the order of service and the potential for making some changes to the current structure. In an effort to help people prepare their hearts for service and to appreciate the beauty of the prelude, we remind everyone to please stop talking when the prelude begins. Let's use that time to prepare our hearts for service!

4. Apostle's Creed: Some folks have expressed an interest in reciting the Apostle's Creed less frequently. We decided to try doing it the first and third Sundays of each month and seeing how that goes.
5. Pastor Evaluation: We discussed the annual pastor evaluation. Ben has worked with Moniteau to complete the evaluation information prior to the November Evangelical Council Meeting.
6. Review of Budget: We discussed potential budget changes for the 2023 fiscal year. The proposed changes will be presented at the annual meeting.

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. See You at the Pole went well. Shirts have been ordered for WWJD and are being considered for the Middle School Youth Group. Volunteers are still needed, particularly for the Middle School Youth Group.

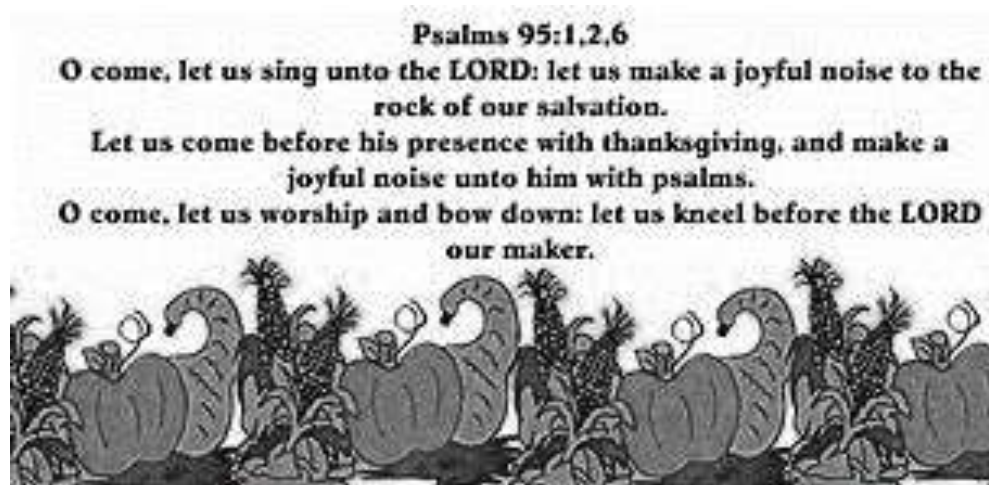
The motion to adjourn was made by Lucas, seconded by Mark and passed by vote of the Board. The meeting was closed by all reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Haldiman in lieu of Sandee Eschenbrenner

INFORMATIONAL: The church board will be reviewing family night assignments during the November board meeting. If you would like to be added, removed, or transferred to a different month, please let a board member know prior to November 21st!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. Sunday, November 6th: Daylight Savings Ends
2. Sunday, November 6th: Evangelical Council Meeting (4:00 p.m. @ Moniteau)
3. Sunday, November 20th: November Family Night – Carrom/Crokinole (Ted and Sara Rohrbach, Denny & Judy Wittenberger, Natoma Elliott, Pastor Steve & Mary Kay Watson)
4. Monday, November 21st: Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
5. 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!



November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Note: December and January are our church's months to cover the Care Packs.		1	2	3	4	5
			Lori Porter		Darrell Knierim	Stephen Derendinger Glenda Dietzel Liana Kuhn Jenice Taggart
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Daylight Savings Ends Evangelical Council Meeting, 4:00 p.m., at Moniteau Bob Marshall	Colton Glenn	Christy Heimericks			Debbie Birkmann	Geraldine Taggart
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Zach Reimler			Seth Rohrbach	Lucas Knierim Katherine Rohrbach Rynley Gattin		Sterling Cassil Ginna Meisenheimer
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Children's Choir will sing during church. Communion Family Night Carrom/Crokinole 6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Emily King	Thanksgiving Service 7:00 p.m. New Hope Baptist Church		<i>Thanksgiving</i> Kate Reimler	Ron Marshall	Hilda Schoenthal
27	28	29	30	Family Night Hosts/Hostesses: *Ted & Sara Rohrbach Denny & Judy Wittenberger Natoma Elliott Pastor Steve & Mary Kay Watson		
		Marcy Oerly Eli Marshall	Misti Reynolds Olivia Oerly			

