

# St Paul's Evangelical Church

## The Messenger

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December, 2020

### From Pastor Steve's Desk

Christmas, when I was a child, was about receiving and giving gifts to one another, about Christmas decorations and lights, about Christmas songs like "Frosty the Snowman" or "Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer." But all that changed in June of 1971. Viet Nam was raging. Young men were drafted, sent and came home wounded or in a body bag. I knew, or suspected that I would be drafted and sent, and with 'my luck' be severely wounded or worse. I was not prepared to die. I had a feeling (not a faith) that there was a God and that He was not pleased with how I was living my life. I knew that if I stood before Him, I would want mercy but deserved justice and that justice would condemn me to 'who knows what' (I didn't know what the Bible said). I needed forgiveness for those things of which I was ashamed (and there were many).

Matthew 1:21 (in Matthew's Christmas narrative) says, "You shall call his name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins." That is what I needed and that is what I found and experienced that night in June of 1971. I believed that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead—as we are told in 1 Cor. 15:3-4. From that night on, I knew that, though I didn't deserve it, because of God's mercy, Jesus had saved me from my sins by forgiving me.

But then there was another problem, even though I was forgiven, sin still seemed to have a power over my life, I kept doing things that I knew were wrong, things I wasn't proud of, things that I wanted to stop but couldn't find the power within myself to deal with. And then, once again that verse, Matthew 1:21 (in Matthew's Christmas narrative) came to mind, "You shall call his name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins." He not only can save me from the penalty of sin (forgiveness) but He can save me from the power of sin in my life. What He requires is that I confess/acknowledge/'say the same thing about' my sin that He says and He will, because of what Jesus did on the cross, not only forgive my sin but enable me to have victory over my sin (1 John 1:9). I need God's mercy, power and forgiveness every day of my life and it was all bought and paid for by Jesus on the cross and experienced by walking with Him, obeying by His power daily, confessing my sins to Him, calling upon and believing in His mercy.

Because of the truth of Mt. 1:21, I am not the person I was in 1971, nor am I the person that I would have become without Him. I am thankful that He will not judge me by my worst moments—I needed and continue to need His mercy daily. And if I do not want to be judged by my worst moments, I have no right to judge anyone else by their worst moments. I need to pray for them that they will experience the Father's mercy for forgiveness and for victory over sin day by day. And I need to recognize what the Father, through the LORD Jesus, in mercy has done in that life and forgive because the Father has forgiven him in Jesus.

### Church Events

**Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>** – First Sunday in Advent

**Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Meeting after church service; meal to follow

**Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** – New Officer Installation

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Program Practice

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Program at 7:00 p.m.

### Contact us at:

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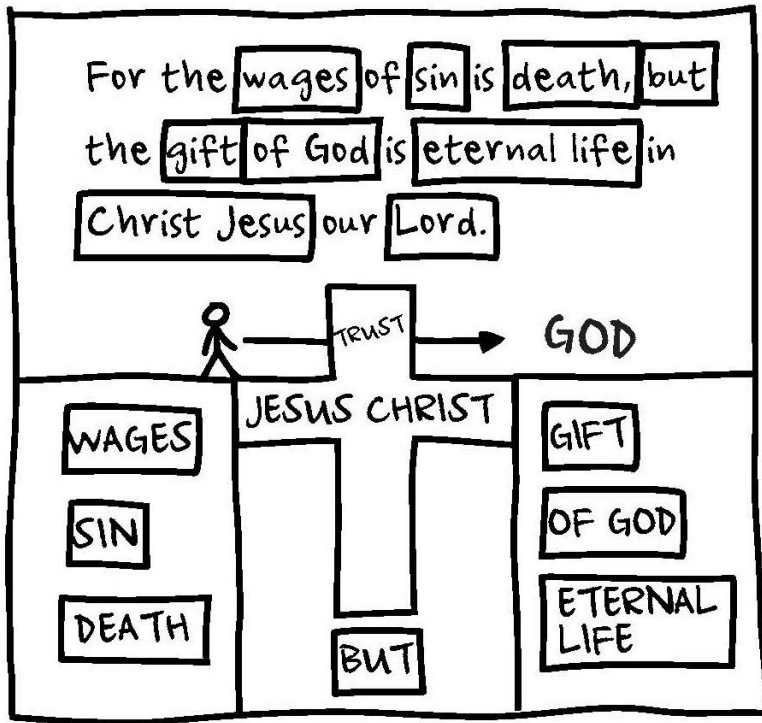
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## You can tell someone about salvation—you can give the gift of eternal life this Christmas

Many times we feel that to be effective in evangelism we have to create complex illustrations and memorize a seminary-worthy number of verses. But the gospel is most powerful when shared with love, clarity, and (sometimes most importantly) simplicity.

*One-Verse Evangelism* is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing truth simply. It's easy to learn because it uses just one verse. *One-Verse Evangelism* can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes, but can have impact for a lifetime.

Here's a brief look at how it works. Let's say God is leading you to share the gospel with your neighbor, Jeff. Write out [Romans 6:23](#) on a piece of paper or a napkin: "*For the wages of sin is*

*death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (NIV). All you need is contained in this single passage. Ask Jeff if he would like to see a simple diagram based on this verse that will explain God's relationship with mankind (us).

**Wages**--Circle the word "wages" and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" The answer, of course, is that he would want justice—in this case, the wages he had worked for. Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn "wages" from God for how we have lived our lives.

**Sin**--Draw a circle around "sin," asking your neighbor Jeff what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or as simple as excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, "Has God ever seemed far away?" If he says "Yes," you can explain that that's one of the things sin does—it makes God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

**Death**--Circle this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation—in its most basic sense, separation from life. Because God is the author of life, a spiritual death simply means separation from Him.

**BUT**--While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in ideas is coming. What we have just looked at is the bad news; what comes next is the good news.

**Gift**--Draw a circle around this word. Ask, "If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?" Remind Jeff that though every gift is free for the person receiving it, someone still has to purchase it.

**of God**--Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. Ask, "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

**Eternal Life**--Circle these two words next, and then ask, "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

**Christ Jesus**--Write these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that just as every gift has a unique giver, only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

**Trust**--Write this word over the bridge you just drew. Explain that a true friend is a friend you can trust, and tell Jeff that Jesus is offering to be a true friend to him. All Jeff has to do is admit that he is responsible for his sin—either of fighting against God or excluding Him from his life. Trusting Jesus means believing that He has power to forgive us for rejecting God and that He will wash us clean from all that we have done wrong in life. At this point, you can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says "Yes," invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to have mercy on him, forgive him and make him new.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people—especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible—the Gospel of John is a great place to start.

## Benefiting from Mission Fest



The Voice  
of the  
Martyrs

We desire to broaden our view and understanding of what God is doing in the world. The Apostle's Creed says, "I believe in the one, holy, universal church . . ." As we continue to have bulletin inserts each week, we are reminded of brothers and sisters around the world, throughout the ages who have been faithful to Jesus despite persecution. These stories that have meaning to us—these are members of our 'family' and we rejoice and pray for them. As you read of the lives of people just like you, entrust yourself to His care and be willing to do what He asks you to do for Him.

## Healing House

### THE HEALING HOUSE STORY

My name is Heather Gieck, I am the founder of The Healing House and New Beginnings, and I am a life that has been forever changed. I am a **RECOVERED** alcoholic and addict. I was raised in addiction and I was incarcerated at the age of 35. It was in prison that my heart was changed and my mind was renewed, through the Living Word and by His Spirit. Upon my release I entered into a faith-based 12-step recovery program, and it was there that I learned how to apply the 12 steps (spiritual in nature) to my life. MY LIFE HAS NEVER BEEN THE SAME. After I commenced the program (1 year), I became a House Manager for the woman's program and spent the next two years running a house, mentoring women, and presenting the 12 steps. Upon my return home, God placed a vision in my heart, The Healing House and New Beginnings. I have been given the privilege to give back what has been so graciously given to me.

**National Alliance for Recovery Residences  
Affiliated**

### Memory Verses for November

Be working on this important verse from Matthew 1:21

*"You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins. !"*

Be working on this verse as a family. Blessings.



## The Dettmans

Hello family and friends,

When the school year started, our family started doing daily devotionals, with each week focusing on a different "way"; something we wanted to be true of our family. A few weeks ago, our family way was "we are thankful for what we have, whether it is a little or a lot". We focused that week on discussing how we can always be thankful because ultimately our hope rests not in our possessions or circumstances, which are constantly changing, but in God and His love, which never changes.

I've been thinking about that a lot as Thanksgiving approaches. It's tempting to look back at this year and focus on all the hardships and difficulties, and lament the loss of "normal" life. And while it has been a hard year in such a variety of different ways, we can remain thankful in the blessings God has given us. We can have the same attitude as Paul, who wrote these words while under house arrest in Rome: "I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:11b-13).

Thanks so much for your prayers and partnership; we are so thankful for all of you, and would love to hear how life is going for you.

together for His glory, the Dettmans

## Good Books

You might encounter a good book, buy it, read it and then it sits on your shelf. It is too good to throw away and it collects dust. If you have a good book that has especially helped you in your walk with the Lord Jesus and would like to make it available for your brothers and/or sisters in the church, please bring it into the pastor's office with a brief note including your name, how it helped you in your spiritual life and whether you desire the book to be returned to you. When you find a book that helps you, be assured that it will also help others.

# Youth Groups

We are praying and waiting upon the Lord Jesus and the Father for direction and timing. Please check the Facebook page (Evangelical Churches of Moniteau County) for updates. Things change from day to day.

## Senior High

Unfortunately, with the school having been shut down for the past several weeks, we have decided to cancel Youth Group as well. School is scheduled to begin meeting in person again on November 30 and we hope to start back up that following Wednesday.

Continue to pray for Ben, Kim, and myself and pray for the youth in our community. I know basketball season means a lot to our youth and with the recent spike it looks like part of the season could be in jeopardy. Please pray that these kids could get to play some basketball this winter and that they could show God's love while doing it.

## Sharing your story

It is encouraging to hear how God has worked in your life. If you would like to write a short article about how God has provided or protected, or led, or strengthened, please take the time and write it down. Send that part of your story to pastor Steve at [ecmc.Steve@gmail.com](mailto:ecmc.Steve@gmail.com) to be included in the coming newsletters. The Gospel of Mark tells the story of a man that was delivered from demons. *“As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. <sup>19</sup> And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” <sup>20</sup> And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.” (Mark 5)*

When we tell others what He has done for us, it glories Him, it encourages others (“What He’s done for others, He’ll do for you” principle) and He uses it in their lives. If you don’t know how to start that conversation try this: “I am just so excited, I have to tell somebody. You will never believe what the Lord did for me . . . “

# Care Pack Donations

Along with St. Paul's, the churches in our community are very supportive of providing food for the care pack program. We agree each school year to provide this service not knowing how many children will participate. This year we currently serve five students. Last year we provided at times up to twelve. This number can fluctuate as students move in and out of the district. Each participating church provides food for two months and fills in when needed. St. Paul's provides food for the months of December, January and finishes up May if there is not a surplus at the end of the school year. Together, we also provide help during the summer months if needed.

The food provides other benefits besides just filling an empty belly. Being food insecure at home can trigger a great deal of sadness, stress and worry for both parent and child during difficult times. These care packs help supplement those shortages at home and alleviate some of the mental stress that comes with the predicament.

Our church has been able to provide food in the past the following ways - through budgeted funds, donated food and monetary contributions marked for the care pack. I estimate each care pack for the weekend costs about \$8. We have not received any food donations yet but I will continue to check through early January.

Items being collected include ravioli cups, mac & cheese cups, fruit cups, pudding cups, pop tarts, granola bars, snack crackers, juice boxes and any other single serving item you think would be beneficial. Thank you so much for your donations and helping out our local youth.

Submitted by Heidi Eschenbrenner

## Christmas Eve Program

The theme: Nine Lessons and Carols. Kids will be practicing songs during Sunday School Openings, so please have your child/ren there to practice.

Dec. 13 – Practice after Annual Meeting & Meal  
Dec. 22 – Final Rehearsal & Pizza at 6:00 p.m.  
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Program at 7:00 p.m.

# St Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

Nov. 16, 2020

The Board met Monday, Nov. 16, 2020. Those in attendance: Don Gerlach, Debi Baumert, Mark Rohrbach, Mark Oerly, Lisa Porter and Pastor Steve Watson. Pastor Steve prayed to begin the meeting.

The September and October minutes were reviewed. For September Debi moved, Mark O seconded—minutes approved. For the October minutes, Mark R. moved, Mark O seconded and the minutes were approved. It was noted that the Thanksgiving Community service (referred to in the minutes) had been canceled and that the Atkins cleaning service, also referenced in the minutes, had made a significant effort to address cleaning concerns.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. There was discussion about changes in the format of the report. After review, Mark O moved and Debi seconded and it was approved.

The coming year's budget, to be presented at the Annual Meeting for congregational approval, was discussed. It was decided to modify the budget report to indicate items paid from a fund will be removed from the budget report and noted among unbudgeted items. Debi moved and Lisa seconded to accept the proposed budget for submission at the Annual Meeting, motion approved.

## Old Business:

There was an update on the front lighting for the sanctuary. Don indicated that the company would be contacting him this week to schedule work and it would not interfere with programs of the church.

The water sensors for the church (provided by Church Mutual) will be installed. Pastor Steve will take responsibility for that.

## New Business:

Mark Rohrbach (Treasurer) presented bills for approval. There was a discussion of CoMo Connect installing high speed internet service for the church. Debi moved and Mark O seconded that the bills be paid. Motion passed.

New members for the board were discussed. Nancy Haldiman and Ben Marshall had been suggested and contacted and after prayer, were willing to be presented to the church at the Annual Meeting for a simple majority vote (as per the constitution). It was decided to accept nominations from the floor during the Annual Meeting, that a ballot would be printed and distributed to those in attendance. The votes would be tabulated with individuals voted onto the board by a simple majority and that it would be indicated who received a simple majority vote for the position.

Memorial Plaque update by Debi Baumert. The memorial plaque had not been updated for a number of years and the board feels it is important to acknowledge memorial gifts to the church. We are reviewing memorials dating from 2005 to the present and want to make sure it is an accurate representation. If you have concerns or information, please contact Debi Baumert.

Christmas Eve Offering was discussed. The Board has been reviewing organizations that we support as missions. The Board has come to a consensus that it is important for an individual or organization that is supported as a mission outreach of St. Paul's to represent the Lord Jesus and share the Good News as a part of their ministry/service. The Christmas Eve Offering, as part of our mission program and mission giving ought to also reflect that commitment. There will be some information at the Annual Meeting seeking the input of the congregation. Also, a change in Advent readings was suggested by Pastor Steve to reflect the Covid situation. Circle of Lights at the Christmas Eve service was also discussed, how to make it more meaningful as well as how to minimize wax spilled on the new carpet in the sanctuary.

The bulletin will, for several weeks, ask if anyone wants to change committee service responsibilities for 2021.

Pastor Steve presented a ministry expense report for the Board to look over.

Announcements and upcoming dates were reviewed. It was noted that the community Thanksgiving Service has been canceled. Dec. 22 will be Christmas program practice.

Upcoming events:

- Nov. 22—Communion
- Nov. 29—First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 13—Annual Meeting
- Dec. 20—New Officer installation
- Dec. 21—Board meeting
- Dec. 22—Program practice
- Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service, 7pm

Pastor Steve was excused for a closed session of pastor evaluation and salary.

<i>December 2020</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 29 – First Sunday of Advent		1 Kendall Borts	2	3	4 Holly Eschenbrenner Grayden Gatlin	5 Roy Nott
6	7 Mark Rohrbach Raleigh Nott	8 Gage Reynolds	9	10	11 Sandy Gerlach	12 Lashley Rohrbach
13 Annual Meeting after church service; Lunch to follow; Program Practice	14 Rob Reimler	15	16	17	18	19
20 New Officer Installation  Gabrielle Rohrbach	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice) Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.	22 Program Practice At 6 p.m.	23  Dalton Oerly	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm</i>	25 Christmas  Natoma Elliott	26  Don Gerlach Kim Marshall Lisa Marshall
27	28 Steve Borts	29 Mary Haldiman	30	31	<b>Host/Hostesses:</b> *Kirby & Debi Baumert Larry & Sue Ann Reynolds Doug & Jackie Cowgill Danny & Brenda Haldiman Darren & Nancy Haldiman	