

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 1, Volume 4
January, 2020

From Pastor Steve's Desk

New year traditionally brings New Year's Resolutions

At the beginning of a new year, it is good to look back and evaluate. See what God has done in the past year and give thanks. Take a look at your life in the past year—What went well? Where did you make progress? Where did you struggle? What do you want to improve?

We always want to improve, to do better, to move ahead. New Year's Resolutions are a part of that process. The top 10 new year's resolutions for 2019 were:

1. Diet or eat healthier (71 percent)
2. Exercise more (65 percent)
3. Lose weight (54 percent)
4. Save more and spend less (32 percent)
5. Learn a new skill or hobby (26 percent)
6. Quit smoking (21 percent)
7. Read more (17 percent)
8. Find another job (16 percent)
9. Drink less alcohol (15 percent)
10. Spend more time with family and friends (13 percent)

Notable, by its absence, is anything spiritual. However, as Christians we know that we are stewards of what God has given to us—stewards of our time, our talents, our opportunities, our relationships. We want to begin the new year with a sermon series entitled, "Resolved"

January 5: Resolve to take in the Scripture because it is how God speaks to us. (2 Timothy 3:10-16)

January 12: Resolve to worship regularly/make worship a priority because the joy of the Lord is our strength. (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

January 19: Resolve to participate in community because it is the place of encouragement (Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25)

January 26: Resolve to live generously because it allows you to store up treasures in heaven. (1 Timothy 6:6-11a, 17-19)

Join us as we make New Year's Resolutions together as a church family.

Church Events

Sunday, Jan. 5 – Installation of New Board Members

Sunday, Jan. 12 – Communion

Sunday, Jan. 12 - St. Paul's, at 4 pm, Evangelical Council Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 18 – Family Feud Mission Trip Fundraiser at 7:00 pm at the Jamestown Community Building

Monday, Jan. 20 – Board meeting at 6:30 pm

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Mission focus

Notes from Mary Kay

Updates from our missionaries—the Dettman's

In 1517, a Catholic priest named Martin Luther presented a list of 95 propositions condemning the popular practice of indulgences, in which the church taught people that they could buy forgiveness from God. Luther argued that forgiveness can only be obtained by true inner repentance and not merely by external acts. These "95 theses" kicked off a significant period in Christian history known as the Protestant Reformation, which had a tremendous impact on shaping the theology and practices of churches today. For the past 500 years, the writings of Reformation leaders have been influencing people around the world, including here in Southwinds, like Andy*. Andy is an English literature student in Mo-town. Through his studies, he became captivated by the writings of Reformation authors such as Luther and John Calvin, especially the idea of returning to the foundational truths of Jesus. While talking with Andy about the Gospel during our Launch Week in November, he said "I know I need to make a decision to follow Jesus, I just want to make sure that I'm ready to be fully committed to that decision." It's incredible that saints who lived 500 years ago are still bearing fruit to this day!

Thank you for praying with us through our Launch Week last month! By God's grace, we were able to meet 110 students and share the Gospel with 36 of them! As a team, we were struck by the openness and interest in the Gospel we found among the students we met. Many of the students we talked to were interested in hearing and learning more about what the Bible teaches. Later in the month, we invited people to watch the Jesus Film with us. One of those who attended, Martha*, said she couldn't sleep the night after watching the film because she was thinking about it so much. She asked for a Bible to read! Please pray along with us that we would continue to have opportunities to follow up with these students and that God would continue to show them His Truth.

December will be a busy month for us this year. In addition to wrapping things up for the semester and trying to meet with students one last time before they have exams and go on break, we'll be making plans and heading to the US for the holidays! We're excited to celebrate Christmas and New Years with family and friends this year, and look forward to seeing many of you while we're home! Please pray for all the logistics of our trip to come together and for rest and refreshment during our time in America. Hope to see you soon!

Together for His glory,
The Dettmans

Each time I come to God's word, I find He gives me wonderful thoughts and glimpses of Himself and His work. I'm fascinated by God's working...He is always working and always showing me that His ways are higher than mine. My constant prayer through the years is that He open my eyes to see Him work! Two recent readings from Old Testament and New have spoken to me about this. Isaiah 28:23-29 struck me as a passage that speaks of God's individuality in working with each one who belongs to Him: "Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cumin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way. Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cumin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cumin with a stick. Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, his horses do not grind it. All this comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom." God is at work, drawing those who would belong to Him, planting and growing faith in their lives, developing good works and habits in them which allow them to be productive with spiritual "fruit". Since He created each of us, He uniquely knows how much of every process we need in order to become the perfect "garden" or "field" able to yield the rich harvest He wants to produce in us. He deals differently with each of us, because both we and the resulting "garden" He desires is His unique creation.

The New Testament reading following this passage in Isaiah was Galatians 6:7-9: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." With the changing seasons around us, these portions of scripture capture my attention to focus on how God is at work in me and in those around me. This passage in Galatians serves as a warning to me, that though God is good and He IS LOVE, His business in my life is serious. My energies need to be directed toward pleasing and walking in step with the Holy Spirit. And though life itself is wearying, I don't want to grow weary in doing good. The harvest WILL be ready in the end if I stay the course and finish the race He uniquely sets before me.

Becoming—

A Middle School Spiritual Journey

Using a resource, “The One Minute Bible for Students” we are developing a habit of daily Bible reading. Dec. 4th we did our “Make, Bake and Take.” We made boxes for the shut-ins and then went to take them, singing, “*We wish you a merry Christmas . . .*” The Middle School took 16 boxes. We appreciate the assistance of Sara Rohrbach, Kathy and Janet Reimler, Seth and Ben, Trisha Meisenheimer and Gretta Leiser. On Dec. 11th we had our “White Elephant” Christmas party. We will begin the New Year meeting January 15th. If you would like to help with this ministry, we can always use another hand. We do ask you to pray for our teens.

Verse for January—Psalm 96:1

*“Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.”*

Senior High Youth Group

Youth Group came to a close for the semester with a fantastic Christmas Party planned by Ben and Kim. Next semester we are starting a study on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23. Each week we will take one or two of the fruits listed and discuss them. Please pray for the Youth Group as we plan for the upcoming semester. Pray for seeds to be spread and spiritual growth to occur.

On Saturday, January 18th at 7 pm at the community building the youth are having a Family Feud mission trip fundraiser. We have 8 local families participating, and every question asked will consist of responses from folks in the Jamestown and surrounding community. We even have questions specific to Jamestown! Please mark your calendars because it will be a great time for a great cause.
--Submitted by Seth Rohrbach



WWJD

WWJD met only two times during the month of December as school was not in session on Dec. 18 due to snow-created road conditions, and school Christmas break began on December 20. Christmas wreath crafts were available during activity time.

During the devotional on December 4, Pastor Steve led the children with the Bible verse from Matthew 1:21: “You shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins.” He told how Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem where Jesus, the King of kings was born. A special star was placed in the sky and men traveled a long way to bring special gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor the King. In closing, the children sang “Away in a Manger” before walking to school. On December 11, Pastor Steve shared part of the Christmas story and the naming of Jesus as instructed by the angel announcing his birth to Joseph. “You shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21.

WWJD will resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

--Submitted by Susan Borts

St. Paul’s Evangelical Church Board Meeting December 16, 2019

St. Paul’s Evangelical Church Board met on Monday, December 16, 2019. Present were Don Gerlach, Ted Rohrbach, Barb Oerly, Lisa Porter, Mark Rohrbach and Pastor Steve Watson. Debi Baumert was absent. Incoming board member Mark Oerly was present and Sandee Eschenbrenner was absent. President Don Gerlach called the meeting to order and Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary’s report: The secretary’s report from the November 18, 2019, meeting was reviewed. Mark Rohrbach made a motion to approve the minutes and Ted seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s report: A copy of the treasurer’s report was given to all board members and reviewed. Barb made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report and Mark Rohrbach seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Reorganization of the Board: The current board tentatively reorganized the new board with the following officers:

President – Donald Gerlach
Vice President – Lisa Porter
Treasurer – Mark Rohrbach
Secretary – Sandee Eschenbrenner
Communion Steward – Mark Oerly
Financial Secretary – Debi Baumert

Mark Rohrbach made a motion to approve the new officers and Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Church website calendar entries – All dates included below.
- Church record book – The wedding of Lexi Baumert and Kyle Smith will be recorded.
- Stewardship report – On hold.
- Memorial policy review – After discussion Mark Oerly made a motion to table until the next meeting.
- Video update of church – Still being researched.
- Renovation schedule and lighting – The board discussed the order in which the renovation items should be completed; electric, raising sanctuary floor, door in front of sanctuary, lighting, patching and painting and carpet. Decisions on lighting will need to be made to ensure everything is covered for the electrical phase of the plan. The board discussed several ideas related to the choir loft, spotlights and additional lights in ceiling. Don is going to check on COB lighting and install one to see how it improves the general light in the sanctuary. Don will ask Sandee Eschenbrenner if she will lead a committee to pick out new carpet and announce in church on Sunday that we need volunteers to work on the committee with Sandee. Discussion regarding renovations will continue in the next board meeting.

New Business:

- Approval of bills – Lisa made a motion to approve payment of the bills and Mark Oerly seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Evangelical Association meeting – St. Paul's hosts the EA meeting on Sunday, January 12. St. Paul's board will hold the office of President for the EA for the next year and it was decided that Lisa Porter would be the person to hold that position. We are responsible for providing refreshments. Lisa will bring chili and Mark Rohrbach will bring potato soup. Ted will bring summer sausage and cheese. Don will provide drinks and dessert and Mark Oerly will provide a dessert.
- Update family night schedule – The board discussed the family night schedule and some changes will need to be made. Some church members will be contacted about switching months. Barb will update the schedule and get a copy out to everyone on the board.
- Congregation survey review - The board tabled the discussion of the evaluation until the end of the meeting.
- Pastor evaluation – The board tabled the discussion of the evaluation until the end of the meeting.
- Window – The outside of the window in Pastor's Steve's office was broke. Don took the window to Friedmeyer's California Construction Supplies, Inc. to be repaired.
- Adkins – There is a new contract for the coming year from Adkin's. It includes a \$5 per month increase from \$280 to \$285.
- Booth Pest Control – The first treatment will be done in January. The church will be treated on a quarterly basis for \$80.
- New members – The board discussed the documents the incoming board members will need including by-laws, duties of officers and 2020 EA Church calendar. Barb will provide those documents to the incoming board. Barb will update the contact information for the board and provide to all members.
- Mail pick up – Pastor Steve will pick up the mail from the post office on a regular basis and get it to the board.

Discussion items with Pastor Steve:

- Mileage and pastor's report – Pastor Steve gave board members a copy of the report. The report includes an overview of what has been done over the last few weeks, events coming up, local and traveling visits, phone contacts, mileage details, and expenses incurred.

Next board meeting will be Monday, January 20, at 6:30 pm.

Pastor Steve left at this time so the board could discuss the church survey's and pastor evaluation. The board reviewed the survey's that were turned in by church members. The survey's included topics related to the church, church board and pastor. Comments from the survey, specific to Pastor Steve, will be incorporated into the evaluation with other feedback from the board. Barb will provide Don with the language for the evaluation topics. Don and Moniteau Evangelical Church board President Andrew Rohrbach will meet after the holidays to merge the two evaluations to present to Pastor Steve the EA Council meeting in January.

Barb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Lord's Prayer was recited.


Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Oerly
Secretary

Dates to Remember:

Sunday, January 5, 2020 – Installation of New Board Members
Sunday, January 12, 2020 – Communion
Sunday, January 12, 2020 St. Paul's 4 pm – Evangelical Council Meeting
Saturday, January 18 – Family Feud Mission Trip Fundraiser 7:00 pm
Monday, January 20, 2019 – Board meeting 6:30 pm

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*Please join the Jamestown Community Youth Group on Jan. 18th at the Jamestown Community Building for an evening of Family Feud starting at 7 p.m. It is sure to be a good time!</p>			<p>1 New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Alison Gorman</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Installation of New Officers</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sharon Wegener</p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Debi Baumert Lee Bieri</p>	<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hudson Clay</p>	<p>8</p> <p>WWJD 6:50-7:45 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rachel Marshall</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Evangelical Council Meeting @ 4 pm at St. Paul's</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gail Muri Lexi Muri Alli Muri Mark Oerly Charlotte Rohrbach</p>	<p>15</p> <p>WWJD 6:50-7:45 am</p> <p>Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Joyce Rohrbach</p>	<p>16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Natalie Bish</p>	<p>17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bryce Schoenthal</p>	<p>18 Mission Trip Fundraiser at 7pm at the Community Building</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">David Knierim Brenda Selby</p>
<p>19</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Amos Rohrbach</p>	<p>20</p> <p style="color: red;">Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>Board Meeting at 6:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steven Gentsch Virginia Strein</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>WWJD 6:50-7:45 am</p> <p>Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Natalie Glenn</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jennifer Schoenthal</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>WWJD 6:50-7:45 am</p> <p>Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

