



Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church

Worship service—9:00 am
Sunday School—10:15 am

Volume 12, Issue 1

December 2019

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Giving is not easy—giving the perfect gift is hard work.

Being a grandpa, this story in Reader's Digest caught my eye. "Last Christmas, grandpa was feeling his age and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So he decided to send checks to everyone instead. In each card he wrote, 'Buy your own present!' and mailed them early. He enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had received very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what had happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards."

Giving the perfect Christmas gift is hard work. It takes thought and insight into the needs of the one who will receive the gift. It costs to give any gift. Often, the person doesn't know what he/she truly needs. A child might take the money and buy candy or toys, when in truth he/she might need socks or a shirt. Even an adult might take the money and buy something that he/she wants rather than what is needed.

As God looked at you and me, He knew what we needed could not be bought in a store. It could not be found in a catalogue. What we needed was a Savior because we were sinners. We needed someone that would take our punishment so that we might be forgiven. That is the perfect Christmas gift and the gift that we desire to celebrate not just during the Christmas season but throughout the year. Jesus is a gift that is given individually to each of those that believe—and Jesus is a gift we can give to our friends as we tell them the story of how the Eternal Son of

God because a baby in Bethlehem, grew to be a man, proved He was the Son of God by the miracles He performed, died on the cross for our sins and then rose from the dead conquering death. Enjoy this Gift.

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

Matthew 1:21

Memory Verse for December

Matthew 1:21

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

How to contact us:

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Evangelical Churches of Moniteau County

Pastor Steve's office hours:

Monday morning at St. Paul's

Tuesday afternoon at St. Paul's

Please call to share a need, set up an appointment or request a visit.

Mission focus

Updates from our missionaries—the Dettman's

DEAR PARTNERS FOR THE GOSPEL, “Hopefully when I am heading there [we] can work out a bit more with lost souls and bring [people] to Christ. Praying a lot that God use me for His glory there.” As I was reading these messages from Stephen*, my excitement was growing rapidly. Stephen is a university student in the capital, but he’s spending this Fall semester studying down here in Motown, the large city right next to Southwinds. We got to meet Stephen in the beginning of the month to hear about his story and his heart for bringing the Gospel to the people here. Stephen grew up with a religious family, but started pushing back against the majority religion during his teenage years. He became agnostic, and began living a “prodigal” lifestyle. After a while, he realized how empty his pursuits left him, and met someone who began teaching him about the Bible. The more he read God’s Word, the more he fell in love with Jesus, until he was convinced that he wanted to devote his life to following Him. For the past 6 years he’s been learning and growing closer to the Lord, and is excited to gather believers here to meet together regularly. Please join us in praising God for Stephen, and pray that God would use him mightily during his time here in Southwinds and Mo-town! Thank you all for praying for the elections that wrapped up in October. Both the parliamentary elections and presidential elections went smoothly. The elections resulted in a shift towards a more conservative, religious government; the conservative majority religion party won more seats than any other party in the parliament, and the president that was elected has a more conservative leaning than the previous president, and has said he wants to roll back some of the recent freedoms our country has enjoyed. Please continue to pray for the spiritual and political climate of our country, that it would continue to be a place that is open to the Gospel, and that God would use recent events to grown the church here. The first week in November (November 4-8), workers with our company around the world focused on Launch Week, a week to set aside other responsibilities to spend extra time sharing with as many students as possible with the purpose of launching new spiritual movements. Last year, our Launch Week in November was a turning point in our work here: we saw our first two students decide to follow Jesus, and showed the Jesus Film to a group of students, two of which would decide to follow Jesus later in the semester! Many teams use Launch Week to focus on new places/campuses or ones they haven’t focused on before. For our team, we took this opportunity to spend Launch Week meeting students in Motown. Thanks for joining us in praying through the Launch Week prayer guide. We’ll write again soon about how it went!

Together for His glory, The Dettmans

Notes from Mary Kay

Over the past year, as I have been writing through this venue (a gift from Steph for Christmas last year), I have very much enjoyed reading thoughts and events I've recorded in journals through the years. As I mentioned several StoryWorth stories a number of weeks ago, I have been a little amazed at some thoughts I had as a young woman that have remained with me throughout the ensuing years relatively unchanged and still speak clearly to my life and soul today. This is one of them, dated July 16, 1979 and noted "thought during prayer time today." The original even had drawings to illustrate.

Problem which can arise in lives of believers if they are not allowed adequate time to grow and mature slowly:

- 1. A seed has the root supply to nourish a seed.*
- 2. A sprout has the root supply to nourish a sprout.*
- 3. A small plant has the root supply to nourish a small plant.*
- 4. Healthy growth in a plant must have an adequate root supply!*
- 5. If a plant is forced to become a tree when it has only the root supply of, say, a sprout or small plant, the tree cannot possibly stand straight and tall much less bear fruit. Somewhere, something, will begin to wither and die in the plant because it's root is inadequate to keep it growing healthy.*
- 6. For the most part, we as human beings are only able to observe the plant and not the root. We should maintain the environment of the plant so as to allow the root to sustain a healthy, productive plant.*



Becoming—

A Middle School Spiritual Journey



Using a resource, “The One Minute Bible for Students” we are developing a habit of daily Bible reading. November 6th the kids went to Sky Zone and had a great evening of fun. November 13 and 20 we are focusing on the theme of Thanksgiving. Based on the principle in 1 John 4:20, “If we do not love people we can see, how can we love a God we cannot see?” In the same way, I suspect (though I don’t have a verse to back it up), “If we do not give thanks to people we can see, how can we give thanks to a God we cannot see?” We are stressing giving of thanks to those that we see and to the God that we do not see.

In December, we will be making and taking cookies to shut-ins to share with them the love of Jesus.

Who & What We’ve Been Praying For

Heather Sullard – cancer treatments
Norma & Dwayne Wood
John & Bev Ernst
Dettman Family
Jamestown Community Youth Groups
Chris Schoenthal – cancer
Mike Powell
Karen Wood – recovery from surgery
Janet Coffelt’s supervisor (Erin)

BLAZING NEEDLES SERVICE PROJECT

For their service project this year, Blazing Needles made pillowcases for Little Box of Sunshine, a non-profit organization in Jefferson City. This group delivers boxes of items to children (toddler age up to age 18) in hospitals in Missouri. Boxes made include snack items, books, puzzles, etc., and always a pillowcase. Group members enjoyed picking out fabric that would fit a wide range of ages and putting sewing them together when they met in October. At the end of the day there were a total of 137 pillowcases ready to be donated.

Read: Luke 2:6-18

Christmas has taken on so many other things over the years. We have the story of Santa. We have the gift giving. These things aren’t bad in themselves, as the gift giving started with the Wise Men. But it can take away from the real meaning of Christmas.

What is Christmas all about?
What happened that first Christmas?
Why do we celebrate it?

As we read here, Jesus, the Saviour of the world, was born. He came as a baby, then grew to be a man that gave His life for you and me, so we could live with Him forever when we die. We celebrate His birth because of our faith in Him, and His birth was the beginning of a life-changing event - the cross.

So let us celebrate Jesus birthday together, and remember why He came.

Heading into Christmas

December 1—Why did Jesus Come? 2 Cor. 89
December 8—How did He come? Luke 1:26-30
December 15—a guest speaker will share as Pastor Steve will be with family for their Christmas
December 22—From near and far. Mt. 2, Luke 2

There will be Advent candles and readings throughout the month. Thanks to those that have volunteered.

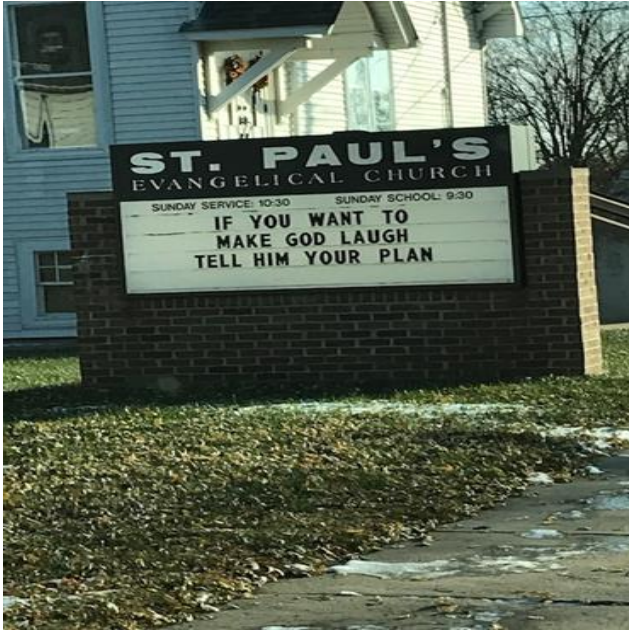
FAMILIES IN NEED OUTREACH

We have been blessed with over \$3600 being donated to this year’s Families in Need project. We have 8 families with a total of 21 children! This committee will soon be contacting people to shop for the families, and coordinate other details for us. If you’d like to shop for a family or help with delivering to families, contact Susan Powell.

Some families have asked for the following (which can be used or new): Toddler/twin bed and bedding; Men’s pants size 40; Men’s shirts size 2X, Men’s boxer/underwear 1X; Men’s winter coat Size 2X, Men’s socks size 13, Women’s pants size 1X, Women’s shirts size 2X, Women’s coat size 2X, and Women’s socks size 8-10. If you have any of these you’d donate, let Susan, Melisa or Janet know.

Thank You!

I do read the church signs in Jamestown and Prairie Home. I have wondered since last Christmas why we were given the gift of lack of vision for Mike. Then I saw this sign and it hit me.



I had a six year financial plan to get part of our farm paid off and then work to get the other part paid off. This was my plan -- I got this! This is what I am going to do. Did you get the last 3 sentences? My plan. I guess there was a big part I forgot there. It's God's plan not mine. Boy has that been humbling. My prayers have changed to what God wants for us and to show me the path or road You want us to take. Have you ever tried to refinance a farm with only 1 very small income? Several banks the same as laughed at me. With the help of my neighbor I do have a bank that is now working with me even with lots of hoops yet to jump through. But it's still going in the right direction.

Before, the plan was to use our electric furnace and use wood sparingly when it's really cold and because we didn't have much. Thanks to our church family, the plan has changed. Electric furnace is shut off and we are burning wood. We would like to thank our church family, whoever had the idea, put it together, everyone that helped, and for the person that brought fried chicken (Mike's favorite of all time). Mike thought it was going to be just him and Russell Gerlach cutting wood. He was so overwhelmed when he saw all the cars and trucks, tractors, wood splitters and all the church family that come together to help us. When he

told me the story later that night I could see and hear how shocked he was (and me also) at the large piles of wood in our back yard. We are so appreciative of the thought, work, and time that everyone gave for us to be warm this winter. Thank you seems not enough! I have always been on the giving side of things. It is totally overwhelming to be on the receiving side. God is showing me a whole new way of looking at things! All I can say is there are a lot of tears flowing every time I look in the back yard. Thank you again so much to my church family and to GOD for providing for us in our time of need. I really do understand how our families in need feel when we deliver to them for Christmas !

Susan & Mike Powell



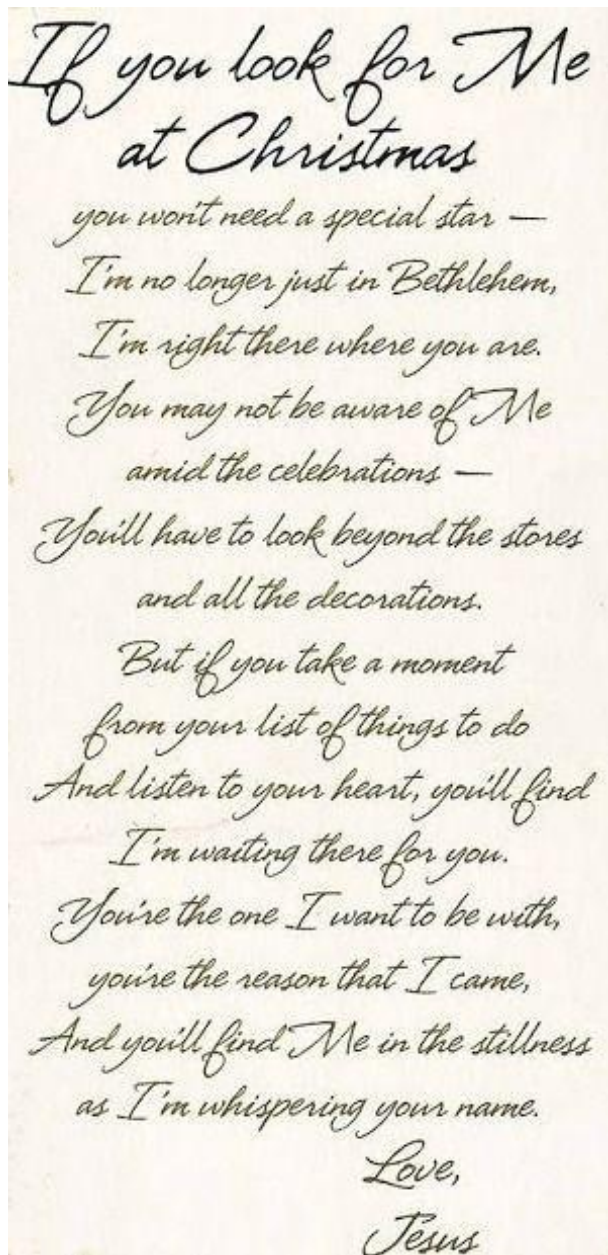
The children of our church have been practicing and working hard this year preparing for the Christmas Program. Join us on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. to see the children present, "The Go-Fers Christmas".

Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments following the program.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be December 1, following the church service. New board member nominees are Kevin Coffelt and Mark Baepler.





September Board Report

The Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church board met on September 23rd, 2019. Present were: Pastor Steve, Cindy Wieberg, Beth Fennewald, Dale Taggart, Justin Traub, and Andrew Rohrbach. Meeting was opened with a prayer.

Secretary's Report:

August report was reviewed and Andy made a motion to approve the minutes. Cindy seconded the motion. Vote taken and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Income for August 2019 was \$2,924.63, expenses were \$3,534.30. Total assets were \$63,533.91 (minus Union Pacific Stock and the 18-month CD valued at \$5,977.31 per previous statement as new statements were not available). Andy made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Justin. Vote taken and passed.

Old Business:

Russell was contacted for an update on the shelving and HVAC. No activity yet but he is working on the official dates.

Fall Work Day on hold until the shelving arrives.

Families in Need balance after the 1st collection was \$1,145.50

New Business:

Christmas Program practice is beginning soon. Help is needed and always appreciated.

Evangelical Council Meeting is set for November 3rd at Moniteau.

October Family Night set for October 26th at 6:00 pm.

Visitor Guide revisions were reviewed. New versions will be rotated in as old versions need to be replaced.

Order of services was discussed. Intention is to enhance the worship experience. Mockups of new order options will be discussed at a later meeting.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, October 28th at 7:00pm.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Justin and seconded by Andy. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Traub, Secretary