



# Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church

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

Volume 12, Issue 1

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.



### How to contact us:

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Facebook page:

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.

## Who & What We've Been Praying For

Moore & Ernst Families  
Heather Sullard  
Laura Buckley (health issues)  
Paul & Shirley Baer  
Chris Schoenthal  
David Wittenberger (pneumonia)  
Paul Fennewald (back pain)  
Adults & children working on our Christmas program  
Our country and our leaders

### **Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church Board Report** **October 2020**

The Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church board met on October 26th, 2020. Present were: Pastor Steve Watson, Kevin Coffelt, Beth Fennewald, Dale Taggart, Andrew Rohrbach, and Mark Baepler. Pastor Steve gave the opening prayer.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

The September 2020 meeting minutes were taken by Mark and submitted for review. Dale made a motion to approve the minutes and Beth seconded the motion, the motion passed.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The September treasurers report was submitted by Dale. September's income was \$1,821.75, expenditures were \$3115.90, total assets were \$89,705.33. Mark made a motion to approve the report and Kevin seconded the motion, the motion passed.

#### **Old Business:**

- Discussed church maintenance projects
  - \*Patch and paint cracks in the sanctuary
  - \*Paint basement duct work
  - \*Storage for cleaning supplies in the basement
- Discussed church building projects
  - \*Improving access at the entrance of the church
  - \*Adding additional Sunday School space
  - \*Updating the basement
  - \*Updating the restrooms
- Discussed board member nominations

#### **New Business:**

-Preparations for the Evangelical Council Meeting on November 1st

#### **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dale and seconded by Beth. The meeting was concluded with all joining in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Baepler, Secretary

### **Benefiting from Mission Fest**



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.

### **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.

### **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.

# 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**

### 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 . . . “

## 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.

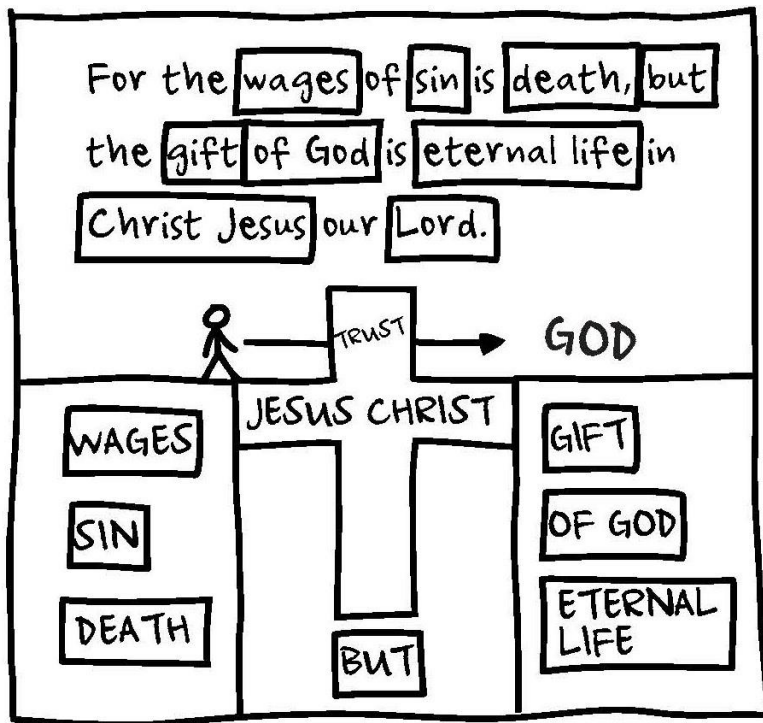
I've been thinking about that a lot as Thanksgiving approaches. It's tempting to look back at this year and focus on all the hardships and difficulties, and lament the loss of "normal" life. And while it has been a hard year in such a variety of different ways, we can remain thankful in the blessings 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

## 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.



## 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.