



Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church Newsletter

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

Looking out over the landscape this time of year it is hard to tell if a tree is dead or dormant. It reminded me of a time a few years ago, I came to a bush and couldn't tell if it was alive or dead. We had planted it in the fall with hopes that it would have time to root down and survive through a cold winter. We had mulched it but the branches in the spring seemed brittle and we waited to see if it was alive or dead. Ultimately, the only way to know is, "If it is alive, it will begin to grow—if it is dead, it won't!" A plant may be dormant but alive and when the right conditions occur, then it grows ("If it is alive it will grow—if it's dead it won't"). Dormant and dead look an awful lot alike in the winter—it is only in the spring that the dormant becomes alive and growing, while the dead stays dry and brittle.

People are a lot like that. Jesus said He came that we might have life—that is really live, be alive, be growing, be fruitful for Him. There is no doubt when

people are alive and growing spiritually—it is seen in the 'joy of the LORD', in the love they have for others, in their excitement to tell people about Jesus and to help people trust Him alone for their salvation. But often, Christians seem to become 'dormant' and there are no signs of life. If you have truly trusted in Jesus alone for your salvation, but as you look at your life see there is little or no growth, perhaps you have become dormant. There are steps that you can take to move from dormancy to vibrancy. Begin to prayerfully read your Bible every day. Deal honestly and openly with the Father concerning the things that are wrong in your life (your sin). Seek out fellowship of growing, fruitful, vibrant believers in Jesus. Begin to attend church where people love Jesus and love one another, a church that preaches and teaches the Bible clearly and accurately. If you are dormant spiritually, such an environment will bring you to life once again, like the spring rains and the warmth of the sun.

As the conditions changed and the spring turned to summer, that bush, which seemed lifeless, burst into life. A leaf here, new growth there. Seemingly miraculously that bush which seemed dead grew to become grander with more leaves than we had hoped or dreamed. Your life can be vibrantly satisfying and full as well.

You already know Jesus is coming back, dear friends. So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of wicked people and lose your own secure footing.¹⁸ Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3

Pastor Steve

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WHAT DO WE BELIEVE

We use the word “lost” in different ways. It can mean you have misplaced something, and it may be in perfect working order if you can just find it. Or we say he lost his life savings in the stock market crash. That doesn’t mean he misplaced it, and it is in good working order, and he will find it someday. No he won’t. It’s gone. Forever.

Or we hear the dread words from the surgeon who is desperately trying to save the life of your sister after an automobile accident, and he comes into the waiting room and says quietly, “We lost her.” Or you go read a list of names in an old whaling town in Massachusetts under the title “lost at sea.” That doesn’t mean they are misplaced, and you will find them. It means they are at the bottom of the ocean.

In Luke 19:10, Jesus said, “The Son of Man came to seek and to *save* the lost.” The lost don’t just need finding; they need saving. This is why Jesus came into the world — not only to find people, but to save people. “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” The lost are dead in their sins and need saving in a way that only Jesus can do.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Moving into a new year, we want to regain our bearings. For next few weeks, we will be looking at the attributes of God, that is, “What is God like?” The Scriptures teach us that God is infinite with respect to time (eternal, without beginning or ending), infinite with respect to space (omnipresent), infinite with respect to power (omnipotent) and infinite with respect to knowledge (omniscient). Further, God has revealed that He is perfect in moral character—perfect in truth, justice, righteousness, holiness, graciousness, mercy, love, and goodness.

Jan. 7	The Goodness of God, Ps. 136
Jan. 14	The Holiness of God, Isa 6
Jan. 21	The Wisdom of God, Rom. 11:33-36
Jan. 28	The Sovereignty of God, Isa. 46
Feb. 4	The Justice of God, Gen. 18
Feb. 11	The Love of God
Feb. 18	The Faithfulness of God

Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of God. 2 Tim. 2:15

Notes from Mary Kay

It has become my practice to reach from Psalms each day, and lately the Psalms have sounded like songs in my mind as I read—an overall haunting melody, but often the actual words don’t stick. Except for recently, over a period of several weeks, a theme has startled me into full attention. Psalm 119:114 the psalmist declares: “GOD, You’re my pace of quiet retreat...” Psalm 131:2 he appeals to GOD “I’ve cultivated a quiet, content heart . . .” And Psalm 132 the writer remembers King David’s deepest desire for his legacy to be that he built for GOD “a home, a house for the Strong God of Jacob” where “GOD could enjoy a new place of quiet repose.” In John 14:23 Jesus says: “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” These thoughts coming together in my mind have made me contemplate what kind of place my heart is for GOD to inhabit. If I am anxious, driven, constantly moving, maintaining an over packed schedule that never lets up, is my heart a tabernacle, a temple, a place where GOD can enjoy quiet, peace, repose?

Steve and I celebrated “Thank-mas” with most of our family in October. Which left us free through the months of November and December to live “in the moment.” It has been something very special to me—this unhurried, un-harried participation in church, and community, and family. Though there have been plans, schedules, crisis even, there has also been a sense of taking each day at a time, contentment in letting each day unfold new with whatever GOD brings...and it feels to me like I am beginning to glimpse what it can be like to be a tabernacle...a temple...a place where GOD can enjoy quiet...peace...repose.

Tuesday Bible Study at St. Paul’s

St. Paul’s Bible study begins a 6-week series about “Putting the Pieces of the Bible Together” on January 2 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. They will learn the geography and major events of the Bible, how the Bible fits together and how to make it “come alive” in your own personal reading. Everyone is welcome.

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE PROGRAM

Our church is hosting this 9-week class that will be held on Sunday afternoons beginning January 7th, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The class is about learning to become good stewards that honor God and can be entrusted by God with greater wealth. It's not too late to sign up to attend, and the class is open for anyone in the community. Contact Paul Fennwald if you'd like more information or to sign up; phone 573-680-5230 or email: pfennwald@gmail.com.

CHILDRENS' FELLOWSHIP

The next childrens' fellowship will be held Saturday, January 20th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. We will eat around 6:15 and ham sandwiches are on the menu for this time. If your child doesn't like ham, you may need to send something with them. There will be a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board for you to sign your kids up by Sunday, January 14. It is important that you make a point to sign your kids up for this in advance so we are not caught off guard and have enough supplies or food on hand for them. On the sign-up sheet will also be a list of items needed for that evening, if you want to donate something.

CHRISTMAS UPDATES

If you weren't able to be part of the church Christmas floats, hopefully you had an opportunity to see them in the Jamestown or Prairie Home Christmas parades. Lots of work and planning went into these and they looked great! Thanks to everyone that helped assemble or donate supplies and for riding on the floats. Special thanks to Claudia Taylor and Cindy Wieberg who coordinated this for us this year.

The Christmas Eve program didn't disappoint either – we have so many talented kids! It was obvious the y had been working hard practicing their lines to share the story of Jesus' birth. The church always looks especially beautiful decorated and in the candlelight for the service. Thanks to Maggie Fennwald, Laura Baepler and Debbie Wetzig for coordinating the program, to Sue Burlingame and Claudia Taylor for preparing the gift bags for the kids and to the Fennwald and Gerlach families for setting up the church hall for the reception after the program.

December Board Report

The Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church board met Dec.10, 2017 Present were: Pastor Watson, Jason Wood, Nancy Baker, Justin Traub and Cindy Wieberg. Meeting was opened with a prayer.

Secretary's Report:

November Secretary's reviewed Nancy made a motion to approve and was seconded by Cindy motion approved.

Treasurer's report:

Income \$4,167.26 Expenses \$5,618.25. Total Assets \$96,557.07. Report was reviewed. Jason moved to have report accepted Steve seconded, motion approved.

Old Business:

The Dave Ramsey webinar at St. Paul's went well and had several attendees.

Dave Ramsey materials have been purchased and we will look into childcare for the people attending the class.

There was discussion about the Christmas Parade floats.

New Business:

-Sewing date of January 6th.

-January 14th is the Evangelical Council Meeting.

-Christmas Bonuses for the Pastor and Custodial service were voted on and will be the same as last year. Nancy made a motion on the Pastor's bonus and Jason seconded and Jason made a motion on the custodian bonus and Justin seconded both were approved. (Nancy abstained from the custodial bonus vote).

-There were two families of the families in need that had special needs children and Jason made a motion to give what was left in the account to those families and Justin seconded the motion and was approved. One family got \$100 extra for special shoes for a child and the other got \$200 for tires and maintenance so the family could travel back and forth to St. Louis for medical treatment for their child.

-Renewal for our insurance was \$2864 and Justin made a motion to keep our current provider at that rate Jason seconded and motion was approved.

Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason D. Wood, Secretary

BLAZING NEEDLES ADULT SEWING

Our sewing group will meet at Moniteau Church on January 6, from 9:00-2:30. Bring your sewing project, craft project, supplies, etc. and join them for a fun day. Bring a snack item with you for lunch.



Read: [1 John 4:9-10](#), [16-18](#)

What does it mean 'to fear God'?

How do you feel when you've done something wrong and know you'll be punished for it? How do you feel when someone is angry with you and shouts at you? Sometimes we feel guilty and even afraid of God when we've done something we shouldn't have. Because we feel guilty, it is hard for us to imagine how God would still love us just the same. And because we doubt God's love, we become afraid of Him. We may even imagine that God will take something away from us or make us sick or punish us in some way. When the Bible talks about fearing God it doesn't mean we should be scared of Him, but that we should respect His awesome holiness.

If God sent His only Son to die so that you could be forgiven, and if you have asked Him to take your sin away, why would He punish you? The answer is: if you have given your life to the Lord, you need never be afraid of your Father in Heaven because Jesus has already taken the punishment for your sins.

PRAYER LIST:

Norma Wood	Florene Rowles
Larry Potter	Joleeta Shepherd
Elaine Ernst	Mary Kay Watson

Our military serving our homeland, our friends, neighbors and family in nursing homes, hospitals or shut-in's.

CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

Pastor Steve shared some of this at our Christmas Eve Program, but I wanted to share it again in case you weren't there and to tell you a little more about one family our church helped. Pastor Steve went with Russell and me to deliver gifts and food to one of the nine families adopted by our church this year. When we arrived we were greeted by a man and 3 boys. Each of us was holding a box of gifts or food to hand to them. When Russell and Steve went back to the vehicle to get more items, the man came out to help them. He was visibly moved when he saw everything in there was all for their family. They made several trips back and forth until the back of the vehicle was empty. The boys were so excited to see everything, even the food items. One thing that caught our eye was the small aluminum Christmas tree in the corner of their front room. It was decorated but had nothing under the tree. Absolutely nothing. While I was holding the door for the last of the items to be brought in, one of the boys was looking through the gifts and stacking them up according to names and commented, "NOW I am excited about Christmas tomorrow!" I have no idea if there were other gifts for the kids that just hadn't been placed out yet, but by the young boy's comment, it made me think this may be all this family had this year. We visited with them a few minutes and they asked where our church was. We also gave them information about WWJD on Wednesday mornings and invited the boys to that. Pastor Steve had a short prayer before we left. The man and all three boys shook our hands before we left that day and thanked each of us and told us to pass their thanks along to our church. When we got back to the vehicle, Russell happened to notice one more bag in the back seat with few more packages so he took it to the door. When the door opened, Russell said, "I found one more bag with presents for someone in it." The boy that had answered the door said, "They must be mine because I haven't found any yet with my name on them!" His face was glowing as he took the bag Russell handed him and looked in to find his name was on all of them.

We don't know if there is a mom in the family or if it's just the man and boys. The visit touched our hearts. The needs of this family will continue after Christmas. It's important we follow up, not with just this one, but with all 9 families throughout this next year. I wanted to share our experience to reinforce how important what we do at Christmas is. If you delivered gifts to another family, I hope you'll consider sharing about your visit in the newsletter, too.

Kathy Gerlach

LAST DAY TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR JANUARY

NEWSLETTER IS: **Sunday, Jan. 21st**