

ST. PAUL'S

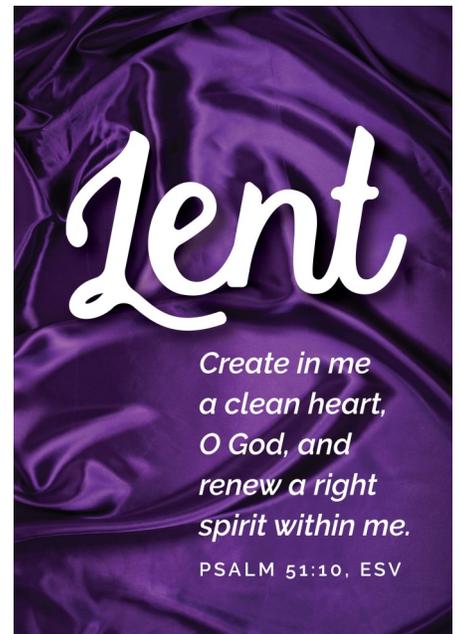
EVANGELICAL CHURCH

We are excitedly anticipating Holy week.

Join us for a Good Friday Tenebrae service on April 2nd at 7:00 PM.

On Easter Sunday, you will have two opportunities to join us for worship. The first option will be a full worship service outside at 7:00 AM. There will be an option to remain in your car.

Our second worship service will be at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. We will provide overflow seating in the MPR should it be needed. Continue joining us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 as we approach Holy Week.



In This Issue

Wednesdays in Lent	2	Congregational Care	4	New Baby	7
Easter Egg Hunt	2	Pray for the Lou	5	Birthdays/Anniversaries	7
Youth News	3	Are You a Veteran?	5		
Missionary News	4	Deacon & Elder Reports	6		



Midweek Lenten Option

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Join us on Facebook or YouTube

City Missionary Marco van Raalten will welcome a special guest every Wednesday night during the lenten season to discuss the theme of "Lament with Hope."

Guests will include:

- 3/3 – Kurt Wilson – Pray for the Lou
- 3/10 – Andrew Stern – Restore STL
- 3/17 – Branden Wilkes & Mark Verslues – St. Louis Reconciliation Network
- 3/24 – Jeremy Smith – Rethink 315

Discussion topics:

Looking at our city: In this season of lent, **when looking at our city/community, what are you lamenting for?**
What are we missing, what saddens us?

Looking at Jesus: **How does the Gospel meet our lament?**
What are the promises in Christ's fulfilled work that addresses these issues?

Looking at our feet: **What is the practical outworking for our city?**
What can we do?



Candy Needed:

We are accepting donations of bags of wrapped candy for the Egg Hunt. If you can help, please bring them to the church by March 28th. Thanks!

YOUTH UPDATE

A Challenge to Parents

Over the past 10-15 years a big change has happened within communities that has impacted both families and churches. The prevalence of youth sports leagues and extra-curricular activities has exploded and made life for many families a constant whirlwind of activity as kids have to be taken here, there and everywhere. More pressure than ever before is on kids to play a sport year-round and other activities (karate, music lessons, dance, driving school, swim lessons...etc.) have been squeezed into the few remaining spots where nothing else was going on. As a youth pastor, I see this most clearly on Sundays and Wednesday nights when kids go missing because a school or non-school activity is placed on a night or day that used to be reserved for church activity. Suddenly, parents and kids are forced to choose which activity takes precedence and more often than not non-church activities win out.

While I am all for sports and the arts and believe strongly that those are important for the development of any child, I am also disappointed that Sundays and Wednesday nights no longer are respected as faith and family days. I think there is a direct correlation between our young people leaving the faith and other activities being valued more than being active at church. This trend is continuing to happen and will only get worse if Christian families do not push back and fight for an appropriate balance between these activities and being present at church.

For parents, I ask you to consider the underlying and often unintended message you may be sending your children. If you put precedence on your child's involvement in activities that take them away from the life of the church, don't be surprised when later in life they decide the church isn't important. If you claim that church is the most important priority, your actions need to back it up. By placing the priority on your child's extracurricular activities over attendance on a Sunday morning, Sunday night or Wednesday night you may be, unintentionally, sending them the wrong message. I realize and respect the difficulties of parenting and am well-aware of the challenges faced and the pressure kids feel to be involved. My concern is that our kids have become overly involved in activities that while not bad themselves, take children and families away from church life and involvement.

So, as we spend time in reflection this season of Lent, I urge you to consider your priorities. Place value on being at church as a family. Place value and priority on having your children attend Sunday services and youth groups. Don't let your child's spiritual life suffer for the sake of a sport or other activity. We can reverse the trend but it requires us to stand up and say, "Enough is enough." If being a Christian is what our lives are going to be all about, we must stop allowing our lives to revolve around activities that infringe upon what the Bible clearly calls us to do, namely, gathering and fellowship with God's people and worshipping and growing together as the body of Christ. Let's make our spiritual life the most important priority!

- Pastor Daniel

SPRING FORWARD



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS
SUNDAY, MARCH 14

MISSIONARY NEWS

St. Paul's began financially supporting **Ryan and Dana Irwin and the Dutchtown Outreach** ministry in South St. Louis City in 2020. The Irwin's lead the ministry in providing direct support to youth and their families in an area of our city that suffers from high levels of crime and poverty. They and their daughters live in the Dutchtown neighborhood where they serve. Dutchtown Outreach has been a mission of our sister church, Immanuel E-Free. Having St. Paul's as a part of their support team has been a real blessing and encouragement during a year that brought many challenges and lessons to the Irwin's. As you would expect there were many adjustments needed due to COVID-19. Ryan and Dana provide a safe and fun environment for kids with their Youth and Kids Club programs, and crisis support to families in a community where there is constant turmoil. The norm had been to conduct their programming in a single location, but a COVID-friendly approach required a more personal interaction involving meetings with individual families. With this change Ryan and Dana are excited to report that the Dutchtown Outreach family mentors have been able to connect much more deeply with the youth and their families. As a result, they have some ideas on how to redesign their programs going forward for greater community impact.

During this time Ryan, as an Elder, was a part of the painful decision to close their home church, Immanuel E-Free. Ryan reports that this was an emotional and difficult decision, but they "rest confidently in God's promises to carry and shepherd us forward." As a result, the Irwins are now in the process of making Dutchtown Outreach an independent registered 501c3.

Recently the opportunity came up to purchase and remodel a new home in Dutchtown, which is a few blocks east of their current home. It is a house that Ryan had prayed over for nearly five years, and the Irwins are excited to see how God uses it as both their family home and the center of their outreach activities in the neighborhood.

2020 was also a year of seeking physical healing for Dana who needed to pursue focused treatment for a health condition. This necessitated the family move to Northern Illinois for several months. We praise God for the good news we are hearing about the improvements to Dana's health resulting from this treatment.

The St. Paul's Mission Team partners with missionaries who serve across the globe, but it is also special to support those serving right here in our city. I know we all hear the news every day and have at least a basic understanding of the challenges that Dutchtown Outreach is grappling with in our city. Ryan and Dana's care for a struggling community, and their strong faith that God will show them the path to follow each day is inspiring. We hope you will join us in keeping the Irwin family and their ministry in your prayers.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Care Team

There's a group of folks that are working to keep in touch with St. Paul's members and help with certain needs as they arise. The team members are Terry Daniels-elder board member, Joyce Sabine, Barb Hueffmeier, Janet Barzoff, Christy Drake, and Pastor Andrew.

They send cards of cheer and encouragement, and make check-in phone calls, and home visits. So, whenever you hear from one of these folks, especially a phone call, have a good chat!

GATEWAY METRO ST LOUIS

Update Marco van Raalten – City Missionary in Residence

The Movement Continues!



We thank God for what He is doing in uniting the church in the STL metro area:

'Pray for the Lou'; a metro-wide prayer initiative now has an entire week of prayer meetings across the city from March 6th – 12th, followed with close to 60 churches participating in the Saturday morning March 13th 9 am prayer walks and virtual closing rally at 10.45 am. Pastors are using Psalm 24 as their sermon text for Sunday, March 14th – Open wide the Gates (of the Gateway City) that the King of Glory may come in! St. Paul's prayer walk will start at 9 am. Frank Serdy will lead us and is available for any questions you may have. We hope to have you be able to follow the virtual closing event live at St. Paul's. Visit prayforthelou.org for more information on the other metro wide initiatives

Pray for the Lou week Meetings Schedule – starting at 7 pm:

- Sunday, March 7: Grace Bible Church, 1912 Central Pkwy, Florissant, MO 63031
- Monday, March 8: Gateway House of Prayer, 4646 S Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63127
- Tuesday, March 9: Faith Community Bible Church, 4515 Evans Ave, St. Louis, MO 63113
- Wednesday, March 10: The Crossing, 114 N Eatherton Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63005
- Thursday, March 11: Jeffco Christians United, 10349 MO-21 Bus, Hillsboro, MO 63050
- Friday, March 12: Morning Star Church, St. Charles, 1600 Feise Rd #7345, Dardenne Prairie, MO
- Saturday, March 13: Local Prayer walks (9 am) and virtual rally at 10.45 am

'The Upper Room', a mission collaborative and incubator space is beginning to take shape with Jeremy Smith (Rethink 315), Kurt Wilson (Pray for the Lou) and Michael Mc Clymond (SLU College Theology Professor) starting the week in prayer and collaborating in reaching St. Louis.

We thank God for all that He is doing in bringing His People together for His Purpose in St. Louis!



**Are you a
military veteran?**

We are compiling a list of St. Paul's members who have served our country. If you have, or know someone who has, please contact the church office with:

military branch, time of active duty
rsvp@stpaulsefree.org OR 314-993-0015

ELDER REPORT

Welcome to Lent. Hopefully you joined the “Upper Room” session on the last Wednesday in February. St Paul’s is blessed with a wonderful facility and the Upper Room series will update us on how we are putting that blessing to use. As a congregation we support missionaries all over the world. The Upper Room Lenten series will show how we are reaching out to all the St. Louis area from the second floor of St. Paul’s.

We promised you to update on the progress of the lawsuit even if there is nothing to report. Right now there is no progress to report. In mid-February the case was reassigned to a third judge. Preliminary motions will be heard by him early in March.

As the situation around the pandemic continues to evolve, we will continue to monitor how St. Paul’s adapts to St. Louis County guidelines. We will update if anything changes in the use of our facilities.

The elders are in the midst of developing a vision for what comes next: number of services, schedule for Sunday School for all age groups, and making the best use of our facilities. If you have any suggestions or concerns be sure and let us know.

Jim Glauert
Elder Chair

DEACON REPORT

The Deacons met on February 8, 2021.

All members present via zoom, and started with an update from Mike Gatrell, our investment adviser. There was a lengthy discussion on the Membership Agreement for the Upper Room Application. The previous minutes and financial report were reviewed and approved.

Other general information was discussed. We are looking for members to serve with us on the Deacon Board. If you have any recommendations, please contact Chuck Caesar or the office.



A New Baby Girl!



Matilda Ruth Shipman

was born on March 1st to Sarah & Josh

*and also welcomed by grandparents
Scott & Jannet Dieckgraeffe*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Daniel Pollmann	3/1	Frances Robertson	3/22	Amanda Frederick	4/2
Janet Kolmer	3/2	David Aslin	3/23	Lois Percival	4/2
Cindy Heuermann	3/4	Julia Appel	3/25	Joanne Scholl	4/3
Jerry Eichholz	3/5	David Sohn	3/25	Bob Kallemeier	4/4
Bob Aslin	3/6	Kate Alstadt	3/27	Larry Smith	4/4
Matthew Heuermann	3/6	Dennis Jayne	3/27	Cindy Bodenschatz	4/5
Katie Prsha	3/7	Kathy Sparks	3/27	Richard Tappmeyer	4/5
David van Dyk	3/7	Kurt van Dyk	3/27	Eric Potratz	4/6
Elizabeth Neier	3/8	Kevin Graeler	3/28	Robb Hicks	4/7
Mark Friz	3/9	Judy Sprecher	3/28	Evan Paquette	4/7
Hudson Crawford	3/11	Clarice Beckemeier	3/29	Grant Ives	4/8
David Pollmann	3/13	Ruth Marsh	3/29	Ralph Percival	4/8
Marco van Raalten	3/13	Rob Neier	3/29	Nancy Cash	4/9
Eileen Carlson	3/19	Heidi Aslin	3/30	Leanne Davis	4/10
Clarissa van Raalten	3/19	Harry Bauer	3/30		
Eddie Lebsock	3/22	Phyllis Stadler	4/1		



	Years	
Ruth & Richard Marsh	44	3/5
Scott & Elizabeth Schurwan	10	3/5
Lendy & Neil Middendorf	15	3/11
Fred & Donna Triebe	43	3/11
Maria & Jorge del Cid	23	3/21
Edward & Carol Teter	67	3/27
Jason & Lynn Starbuck	18	4/5
Don & Maureen Kozlowski	43	4/7

St. Paul's Evangelical Church
9801 Olive Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63141

