

ST. PAUL'S

EVANGELICAL
CHURCH



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YOUTH UPDATE

Reflections on Easter

Easter is a holiday that I have found more and more enjoyment in as I have grown up. Just for some background and perspective, I did not grow up celebrating Christmas or Easter even though I grew up in a Christian home because both were considered secular holidays. And there are still unusual things attached to both holidays that I find unusual like the connection of Easter eggs and bunnies. I think we can all admit that is a bit odd. Anyway, the message of Easter isn't that; it is about celebrating Jesus' resurrection which is certainly something worth celebrating. One thing I have been reflecting on this year as Easter approaches is new life.

I have really enjoyed the warmer weather and seeing flowers and birds around church and my home has been a pleasant change from the colder and more drab Easters I have spent in Wisconsin for the past six years. There is so much life happening and returning as the weather changes. The birds that headed south for the winter are returning, the animals that hibernated or fell into deep sleeps are slowly returning to life again. I love hearing the birds chatter outside our home as they fight over food or greet each other (I'm not a bird expert so I don't know exactly what to make of their sounds). I have even seen a few bees and unfortunately a mosquito or two. Spring is here and my allergies are reminding me of that fact too.

Beyond the physical signs of new life I see around, my wife is entering the last leg of her pregnancy with our third son and he's starting to make his presence known a bit more, kicking and having a rollicking good time when my wife is attempting to sleep. Babies and small children are great reminders of new life and how special and precious it is. Everything about them is so small and amazing. Getting pictures of ultrasounds that show the lips, nose and various other parts of my son's body is fascinating and incredible. I am excited about getting to meet him soon and caring for another precious life given to us from God.

Ultimately, all of these signs remind us of the new life made available to us through Jesus Christ. It's the new life we have in Jesus that Pastor Andrew has been talking about during our series through Romans. We have been made new and Jesus' resurrection was the catalyst that made new life possible. Sin and death no longer have the final word! I hope this Easter, you will have the opportunity to spend a little bit of time reflecting on your new life and sharing the good news of Christ's resurrection with friends, neighbors, and family.

Pastor Daniel Sjogren

Upcoming Youth Reminders

Summer Mission Trip Applications Due Now

Mission Trip Meeting – April 18



ELDER REPORT

We have just celebrated a wonderful Easter season. The remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for us and the joy of His resurrection is special to all Christians.

The Elder Board continues to look at what the "new normal" will be. We can expect to continue to offer in-person and virtual services. The newly re-launched Children's Church will continue during the service. We are still considering the Sunday school schedule for adults, children, and youth. Remember to let us know your opinion on things like one or two services, amount of time for fellowship between service and Sunday school, and service time.

One thing that will be critical to our return to a more complete, in-person Sunday morning is your participation. We will need Sunday school teachers, nursery volunteers, ushers, greeters, and people to handle refreshments. Please consider how you might be able to serve your church on Sunday morning. Let the office know where you would like to help out.

Speaking of helping, in this time of loneliness and isolation St. Paul's does offer help. Trained Stephen Ministers are available to support you in dealing with the difficulties you may be facing at this time. Please contact Joyce Sabine, Barb Hueffmeier, or Kati Prsha to find out more.

With regard to the lawsuit, Pastor Andrew emailed out an update detailing:

- During a recent hearing, our attorneys requested that St. Paul's be dismissed from being named in the lawsuit and cited legal reasons behind the request. The judge denied our request, so our church is still named as a party in the lawsuit.
- Several individuals, including Pastor Andrew, and former members and employees are receiving subpoenas to give depositions as part of this lawsuit. Please be mindful that, while you may have questions about this case, those who have been deposed may be limited in their ability to respond. It takes a long time for the legal process to unfold. The legal process moves slowly so as to assure a just resolution. We will keep you updated as best as we can.

After the annual meeting the elders committed to expand our lines of communications. To that end we have added a new email address at St.

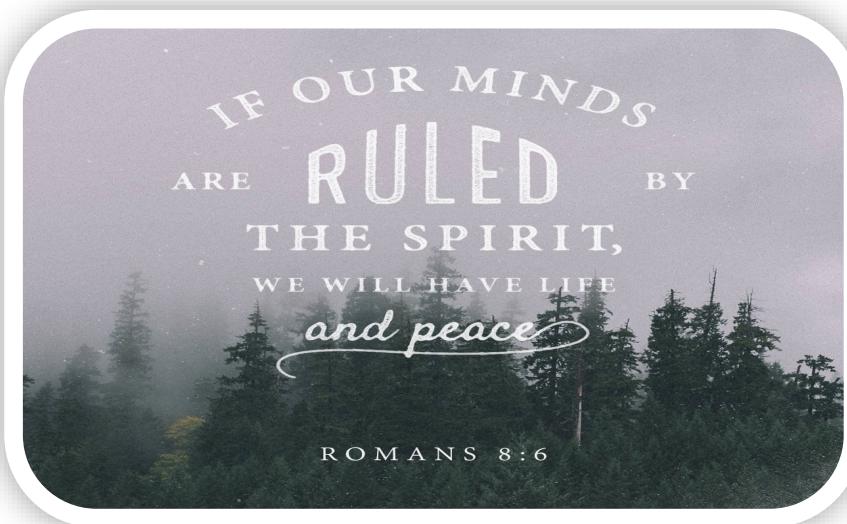
Paul's: elders@stpaulsefree.org. If you wish to communicate with the elder board, simply send a message to that email address and it will be automatically forwarded to all eight of the elders. Our normal procedure will be to "reply all" when we reply to your email so that all of us can share in the response.

As we look to the future when we can return to a more normal Sunday morning schedule, we'll need your input on what that looks like: One service or two? Concurrent or separate Sunday School hour? So let us hear from you on this or anything else you are concerned about.

MISSIONARY NEWS

St. Paul's Missionaries to Native Americans – Craig and LaDonna Smith

On March 1st, the Mission Team had the pleasure of getting together virtually with Craig and LaDonna Smith of Tribal Rescue Ministries. Craig and LaDonna are long time missionaries of St. Paul's. Craig is currently recovering from the effects of COVID-19, which resulted in an 18-day hospital stay. You may remember that Craig has been on our prayer list many times in the past. He is wheelchair bound after a very severe car accident resulted in significant injuries to both him and LaDonna over ten years ago. Craig's COVID ordeal was touch and go, and he is thankful to have survived. Despite Craig's health challenges, the Smith's put all their energies into their ministry with native peoples. Craig and LaDonna told us that there are 574 federally recognized tribes in the US. The Smith's have ministered to hundreds of US tribes and to indigenous people in other countries. Craig himself is a member of the Ojibwe (Chippewa), and LaDonna of the Navajo. While adapting their ministry during the pandemic, they have been focused on the issue of "Redeeming the Culture." There is a movement, even in some evangelical circles, which promotes that any cultural characteristic or tradition is "redeemable," including animistic rituals. Craig is passionate about helping the indigenous person define the boundary lines in which to live out their faith in Christ in the context of their unique cultures. He has developed training, which is available in multiple formats, for native churches to help answer tough questions on this topic, including assisting Pastors in other countries. The Smith's plan to launch an indigenous faith podcast to go with their training materials and book. You can learn more at <http://www.tribalrescue.com>. Tribal Rescue Ministries should have a new website up soon featuring the podcast and a new blog by LaDonna. Please keep Craig and LaDonna in your prayers, for healing of Craig's lungs, strength for LaDonna as caregiver, and for openness to the Gospel amongst the native tribes and people of North America and the world.



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'; St. Paul was one of over 70 locations that did a prayer walk on Saturday, March 13th. Frank Serdy did a great job leading about 30 of us that morning, as we welcomed pastor Jeff Miller and congregation from neighboring City Lights Church. Pastor Andrew used Psalm 24 as his sermon text the following Sunday; a text used by many churches to pray that ‘the gates’ would be opened in the Gateway City that ‘the King of Glory would come in’ St. Louis! The week leading up to the weekend had wonderful prayer rallies led by local pastors across the Metro Area.

As the prayer movement continues, please join us at any of the upcoming prayer events:

- Friday, April 9 – 7 pm – Prayer Meeting with and for immigrants at Oasis, Bevo Mills
- Thursday, May 6 – ‘National Day of Prayer’ with prayer meetings in court houses across the metro area – www.nationaldayofprayer.org
- Friday, May 14 – 7 pm Pray with pastor Ricky Floyd who serves in the city of Memphis, TN at LaSalle Conference Center, Wildwood, MO. www.speaktothecity.com
- Saturday, July 10 – 2(?) pm - Unity in the Lou prayer event – Friendly Temple. www.stlrn.org
- September 7-16 – 10 Days of Prayer – www.10daysstlouis.com





A New Baby Boy!

James Bernard Coste

was born March 31 to Rebekah & Jean-christophe

He was also welcome by -
big sisters Hannah & Eloise



Sharon and Mike McGauly
Meramec Bluffs
162 Ameren Way, Apt 623
Ballwin, MO 63021

Phone # correction
Lee & Eileen Carlson
636-733-0746



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Phyllis Stadler	4/1	Nancy Cash	4/9	Leslie Browning	4/26
Amanda Frederick	4/2	Leanne Davis	4/10	Stefan Cug	4/28
Lois Percival	4/2	Joan Althaus	4/14	Bob Gill	4/30
Joanne Scholl	4/3	Mary Lou Fochtmann	4/14	Sarah Crews	5/1
Bob Kallemeier	4/4	David Frederick	4/14	Conway Wong	5/1
Larry Smith	4/4	Nate van Raalten	4/14	Cindy Glauert	5/5
Cindy Bodenschatz	4/5	Drew Stadler	4/15	Molly Crawford	5/7
Richard Tappmeyer	4/5	Benjamin Seley	4/16	Kelly Cug	5/7
Eric Potratz	4/6	Kelly Graeler	4/17	David Oliver	5/7
Robb Hicks	4/7	Steve Crawford	4/18	Ginni Thomas	5/8
Evan Paquette	4/7	Ruth Hinzpeter	4/22	James Knappenberger	5/9
Grant Ives	4/8	Sarah Shipman	4/22	Carol Teter	5/10
Ralph Percival	4/8	Steven Daniel	4/25		

*Celebrating
an
Anniversary
this Month*



	Years
Jason & Lynn Starbuck	18
Don & Maureen Kozlowski	43
Gregg & Charlene Peter	35
Kim & Nick Ragsdale	9
Jeff & Tera Stahlhut	11
	4/5
	4/7
	4/14
	4/21
	5/8



St. Paul's Evangelical Church
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