

From the Pastors Desk

Greetings All,

This month marks the beginning of the second phase of the 5-stage transition process. The Transition Team (TT) is being formed as I write. This team has been tasked with three main objectives; first, assessing the health of St. Paul's, secondly, asking God to show us what two initiatives we should strategically focus on to make the greatest impact on the health and fruitfulness of St. Paul's as we anticipate the arrival of the next permanent pastor, and thirdly, implementing a plan to address the two initiatives. One of these initiatives will be outward focused (on the community) and the other will be inward focused (on the church family).

I will lead the TT, which will last through early fall and will consist of three retreats. The first retreat is scheduled for Friday night, Feb. 11, and Saturday morning, Feb. 12. The work of the TT and St. Paul's congregation will prepare us for the final stage of the process: the selection of a Search Team and the calling of the next permanent Senior Pastor.

There will be many ways in which you will be able to be a part of this process, even if you are not a part of the TT. First and foremost is to pray! Mark your calendar for **Wednesday evening, February 9, at 7PM in the Multipurpose Room** for our first *Concert of Prayer*. This time of intimate communion and conversation with God will kick-off the second phase of the transition process. We will be guided through a series of prayer topics in small groups of three to five. These short times of prayer will be interspersed with worship. This time of prayer will be followed by concerts of prayer during our Lenten Services.

Secondly, you will be invited and encouraged to sign up to participate in a "triad" during the spring. A triad is a group of three men or three women that meet for eight weeks to study a book called Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, by Pete Scazzero. Scazzero learned the hard way: you can't be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Even though he was the pastor of a growing church, he did what most people do--avoid conflict in the name of Christianity; ignore his anger, sadness, and fear; use God to run from God; and live without boundaries. Eventually God awakened him to a biblical integration of emotional health and the spiritual practice of slowing down and quieting your life in order to experience a firsthand relationship with Jesus. It created nothing short of a spiritual revolution in Scazzero, in his church, and now in thousands of other churches. These triads will be a road map for discipleship with Jesus that is powerfully transformative.

And finally, you will be given opportunities throughout the spring to share your ideas and vision of what you see God doing here at St. Paul's as we prepare to welcome the next permanent pastor. Together we will move into the future with hope and expectation of much fruitfulness for our King Jesus! Jesus tells us in John 15:16, *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

The Elders are available to pray with you according to James 5:13-16. Don't hesitate to call on them and remember the pray chapel is staffed with someone ready to pray with you after each Sunday service.

Many blessings from our King Jesus and love in Him,
Don

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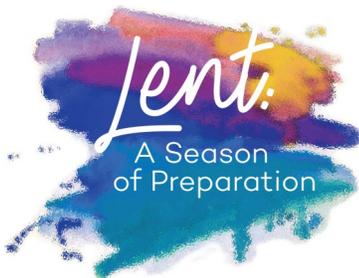
Wed, February 9

7:00 pm

multipurpose room

Join us for an hour of intimate conversation with our King Jesus. You will be glad you did! The concert of prayer will begin with a brief welcome and explanation of the concert of prayer and materials in hand. Each segment of focused prayer will be between 3-8 minutes in duration. A musical hymn or chorus will close and begin each segment.

A Concert of Prayer is concert of music and prayers. Music is part of our prayers as Paul exhorted the church to “speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Our purpose is to wait on the Lord, to listen to him, to pray for our church and the upcoming Transition Team, as well as to jointly carry our burdens to the Lord.



**Ash Wednesday Worship Service
March 2 // 7pm**

**Wednesday Lenten Prayer Evenings
March 9 - April 6**

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.
Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

Psalm 34:1, 3

YOUTH NEWS

We have made it through the first month of the new year and have come to February...the month that is short but seems to last forever. Come on spring! February is probably best known for Valentine's Day and you know it is coming up because every single store starts putting red hearts everywhere as soon as the new year begins. Christmas candy is gone replaced by chocolate hearts, Santa and his reindeer are replaced by Cupid and his bow and arrow. Pink, red, and lace are everywhere. And while Valentine's Day is a secular holiday, it's not without its redeeming qualities. Celebrating and remembering how much we love each other, especially as families and married couples, is important. But I think as Christians, we can celebrate and remember an even deeper love this time of year (and hopefully all year too).

In youth group we have begun a 12-week series on Christian sexuality, looking at how God has made us and how the Bible provides us with a sexual ethic that will result in us living a flourishing life as God intended us to. At the beginning of this series, we have been discussing God's love for us and how a proper understanding of that love helps us see ourselves correctly, reduces shame, and frees us to know God forgives us any time we sin and mess up. It's always beneficial to reflect on the depths of God's love for us. Ephesians 3:17-19 put it best I think as Paul prays for God's people in Ephesus. He says, *"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."*

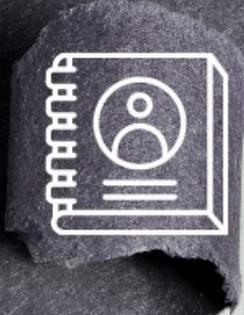
What Paul is saying here is simple and yet beautiful. He is saying that he hopes God's people are able to just get a taste or a glimmer of how vast God's love for them is. He describes it as being wide, long, high, and deep. It fills every dimension. Nothing can escape it. Paul says he hopes they grasp this love that goes beyond human knowledge. Are you starting to understand what Paul is saying? He's saying God's love goes beyond our finite ability to understand and grasp. It's greater than we could ever imagine. Elsewhere in Scripture, Paul says nothing can separate us from God's love. Imagine if we started to believe this was true! Imagine if we actually embraced this and stopped believing we had to hide our sins, our failures and our flaws from God.

As my mom entered her final few months of her life here on earth, she finally grasped this reality and it gave her so much joy and freedom. She had struggled through most of her life feeling like she needed to earn God's love; that it was somehow dependent on her. I know she wasn't alone in that struggle. I struggle with it myself and I suspect many of us do. But the Bible reminds us again and again and again, that God's love is without condition. God's love is without strings attached. God isn't sitting up in heaven just waiting for us to mess up so he can take his love away. No, it remains and it rests on every single person.

God's love is what draws us to him. It is responsible for our salvation and our ongoing sanctification. It compelled him to give himself for us. And it is the catalyst for many charitable endeavors by Christians all over the world.

So this month, as you see the hearts and flowers and everything else, let those things be a visible reminder to you of the magnitude of God's love for you. May it remind you that God will never stop loving you...no matter what. That your past, present, and future have not and will not change his love for you one bit. That nothing you have done or ever could do will reduce his love. May that knowledge free you from shame and give you an appreciation of God's immeasurable love.





directory

Updates

send in changes & additions
of Address, Phone #, Photos

directory@stpaulsefree.org



Church Leadership

Brothers and descendants of early St. Paul's members, Chuck Caesar and Craig Caesar, are leading our Deacon and Elder Boards, respectively.

They are committed to helping take the church into our next phase, with God's guidance.

We will continue to introduce the leaders, and keep reporting information in the areas of finances and work of the leaders.



BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS!

Our Goal was 11 units.
We collected **18 units!!***

*10 whole blood units and 4 double reds
and 1 deferral

Save the date for our next drive: July 18, 2022



Wednesday Playdates // Sunday Bible Study // More to Come...

If you are a mother, or know of one or two, in search of supportive, caring relationships in the central St. Louis suburbs, then you have come to the right place! Mom Connect is a community of mothers that meet for Christ-centered fellowship, teaching, and care. We believe that the trials and joys of motherhood provide us with an amazing opportunity to grow together and serve each other with the help of Jesus. Please join us in laughter, tears, Bible study, discussion, prayer, and service. Visit the facebook group listed above for details on events and programs.



A New Baby Girl!



Molly Jane Kozlowski
was born Jan 21st to Keith & Emma



She was also welcomed by two big brothers
and proud grandparents:

Maureen Kozlowski
Tim & Nancy Dahl

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Art Pasteris	2/1
Jorge del Cid	2/2
Margy Robinson	2/2
Ruth Wyne	2/4
Ruth Effinger	2/5
Fern Black	2/6
Gayle Friz	2/6
Maureen Kozlowski	2/6
Carolyn Maclean	2/6
Beverly Millard	2/8
Nancy Parton	2/11
Betty Lang	2/12
Madelyn Oliver	2/12
Elizabeth Thomas	2/13

Robert Schnellbacher	2/14
Fernando del Cid	2/18
Edith Niedringhaus	2/18
Jeff Pfeiffer	2/19
Calvin Wong	2/19
Joyce Sabine	2/20
Brian Thomas	2/21
Jeff Drake	2/22
Janet Graeler	2/22
Lynn May	2/22
Joyce Lindstrom	2/24
Gregg Peter	2/24
Terry Daniels	2/25
Eric Thias	2/25
Solomon Frederick	2/26
Edith Skaggs	2/27
Carol Wipke	2/28

Daniel Pollmann	3/1
Matilda Shipman	3/1
Janet Kolmer	3/2
Cindy Heuermann	3/4
Jerry Eichholz	3/5
Bob Aslin	3/6
Matthew Heuermann	3/6
Katie Prsha	3/7
David van Dyk	3/7
Elizabeth Neier	3/8
Mark Friz	3/9
David Pollmann	3/13
Marco van Raalten	3/13



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

	<u>Years</u>	<u>Date</u>
Jeff & Rena Pfeiffer	27	1/8
Ruth & Richard Marsh	45	3/5
Scott & Elizabeth Schurwan	11	3/5

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



Sundays

Worship Service	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time	10:30 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Focus Youth Group	6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Quilters and More	9:30 a.m.
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Wednesdays

Mom Connect	9:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study	9:00 a.m.

Thursdays

Praise Ringers	6:00 p.m.
Chorale	7:00 p.m.

- 2/6 Communion
- 2/9 Women's Fellowship // 11:30am
Concert of Prayer // 7pm
- 2/11-12 Transition Team Retreat
- 2/18-20 Youth Retreat
- 2/21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 3/2 ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship Service // 7pm