

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

"I try to be patient", the young mother explained, "but these children..." I really want to be a good Christian", the young man lamented, "but whenever I see a pretty girl, well..." The Christian businessman really knows he should spend more time with his family but... Oh, and that corner he just cut, he easily excuses it by saying, "Well everybody does it!"

Sincere, committed Christians, each one. Also frustrated from trying hard to follow the example of Jesus, their Savior. Each is beginning to realize that the Christian life is impossible to live. That is the whole point of the Old Testament. It shows us our desperate need for the promised Messiah, our King Jesus! The law is hopelessness to accomplish the fulfillment of God's Promise of redemption, forgiveness, and the power and grace to live the Christian life. The Message puts it this way in Galatians 3:24-27; *Until the time when we were mature enough to respond freely in faith to the living God, we were carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic law. The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for. But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ, you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ's life, the fulfillment of God's original promise.*

Christ's life in us! That is the secret. Paul explains the "mystery" of our faith in Colossians 1:26-27; *The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory!* We have freedom from the tyranny of the Law, but often find ourselves serving that master instead of our new Master.

The secret is in admitting our need as hopeless sinners (confession and repentance) and experiencing by faith the supernatural life of Jesus living through us. When we see a Christian that is truly following Jesus and living the Jesus lifestyle, recognize it is the Holy Spirit working through him, not his own efforts that are giving results.

Paul reminds us in Galatians 3:1-3; *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

So, if you are tired of trying to live for Jesus through your own positive thinking and the power of your sinful flesh, simply confess to Jesus your lack of trust and whatever sin He points out. Then simply confess it, receive his forgiveness, and begin to walk by faith in His power and joy. (And by the way, whenever the Holy Spirit point out to you any sin, whether an action or attitude, that is displeasing to Him, simply confess it and move on.)

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## TRANSITION TEAM NEWS

The Team met for their first retreat, and under the guidance and experience of Pastor Don, has begun the Assessment Stage, to help better understand the current condition of the church to prepare properly for a plan for increased effectiveness in ministry. It is important to understand existing issues, patterns, and the reasons behind them. This stage is crucial if the church is going to determine the best path forward. The work will include the gathering of information from both inside and outside the congregation to develop a clear, up-to-date picture of the congregation and of the surrounding community, and to discover and celebrate what God has done in the church throughout history and currently. It is also important to identify unresolved issues that may be impeding ministry effectiveness.

The team learned the overall process and divided in sub groups:

**The Church Assessment** group is looking at statistics and trends of the past, will be conducting a Natural Church Development Survey, and will meet with the Congregation this Spring for input. Group members are: Jim Glauert-chair, David Smith, Mike Kolmer, John Graeler, Carter Maier, Craig Caesar, Lisa Stahlhut, Ralph Stahlhut, Julie Price and Jannet Dieckgrafe

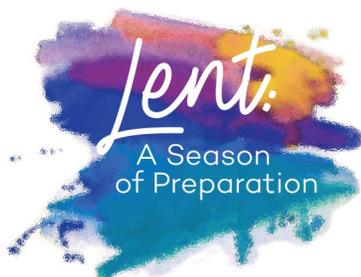
**The Community Assessment** group will be gathering data on surrounding neighborhoods within a 5-mile radius of the Church, and identifying ministry opportunities. Groups members are: Greg Steimel-chair, Melanie Brewer, Chuck Caesar, Jack Caesar, Stefan Cug, Camila del Cid, Daniel Sjogren, and Conway Wong

**The Prayer & Communications Group** will be providing prayer opportunities throughout this time of transition, as well as, communicating activities with the Congregation. Group members are: Susan Musselman-Chair of Prayer, David Pollmann-Information Spokesperson, Kelly Cug, Maria del Cid, Amanda Frederick, Frank Serdy, Jamie Stull, and Christy Drake.

Updates will also be provided in the Weekly Sunday Bulletin.

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*

*1 Timothy 2:1-2*



**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

From the Elder Chair -

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ! I was blessed to put on my Dad hat to attend the Winter Youth Retreat. It was an amazing time to focus exclusively on Worship, fellowship with our youth, and focus on listening for God's voice. I returned refreshed and laser focused on embracing the fruits of the spirit, especially patience and self-control.

Speaking of patience, not much has changed with the lawsuit other than a confirmed trial date of October 31st. I will keep you posted during worship services if anything changes between now and then. In the meantime I encourage you to be patient, wait to see God's will unfold as we continue to move through this challenge.

Speaking of self-control, I encourage you to join me in putting aside personal feelings and preferences during this time of challenge and transition. Listen intently for God's voice, pray for our pastors, pray for the elders, pray for the transition team, and pray for unity at St. Paul's:

Father, I pray for unity at St. Paul's. I pray against the things that divide us. I accept that you allow challenges to exist in our individual lives and as a congregation. I trust that you hear our prayers against those challenges. I cannot understand your ways so I put you first Lord, before any comfort I might prefer. In Jesus' name - Amen

Grace and Peace - Craig

**Anointing & Prayer for the Sick**

The Elders invite you, who need prayer, to reach out to us to schedule a time for you to be anointed with oil and prayed for in the name of the Lord. The Elders will lay hands on you and pray for healing, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual. This is in accordance with James 5:15-18, which encourages us to do this kind of corporate praying.

*There are several ingredients to this approach to prayer:*

**The Elders are Called for** – this is an act of obedience and faith. The elders don't heal, but they oversee the spiritual life of the church. They are not to pursue people to pray for, but people who have needs pursue them.

**The Oil** – the oil is not magic nor does it contain any special power or grace. It is olive oil as was practiced in Jesus day. We use little vials of olive oil and just touch the forehead with a little dab. The oil represents God's blessings.

**The Laying on of Hands** – Jesus himself often did this when he prayed for sick people. It is simply a compassionate point of contact by which the seeker and the pray-ers agree together.

**The Prayer of Faith** – “Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” – Hebrews 11:6

**The Confession of Sins** – an often-overlooked part of this passage. Healing is conditioned on our willingness to confess our faults and receive forgiveness. Confession is admitting to sin's presence and turning one's back on it. An elder or pastor will sometimes ask, “Is there anything in your life that would hinder God from answering your prayer and healing you?” We pray together with and for the sick and by faith leave the results to God. –Adapted from: [www.prayertoday.org](http://www.prayertoday.org)

**DEACON NEWS**

We welcome Mary McDannold and David Frederick to the Deacon Team and look forward to working with them.

## New Member Class

There are several who have expressed an interest in joining St. Paul's Church. We are thrilled with your desire to become members and will be holding a **membership class** on three Sunday mornings in March: 13th, 20th and 27th, in the Upper Room, on the top floor (More details to follow.)

If you are interested in joining the class, there is no obligation to join the church. It will be a good chance to learn more about St. Paul's and the Evangelical Free Church of America. Just let Pastor Don know or contact the church office so we can prepare materials.



**FAMILY  
Movie  
Night**

**Friday, March 11**

5:30pm Pizza  
6pm Movie Time

"Breakthrough" or  
"Veggie Tales Noah's Ark" for younger kids

Snacks provided with the movie too!

## YOUTH RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS



**The Women's Bible Study** will begin a new series, *Saints and Scoundrels in the Story of Jesus*, on March 9. Each lesson will include a video by Nancy Guthrie and a discussion of homework, which is helpful to complete but not necessary to attend. If you have thought about joining the Bible study but just haven't gotten around to it, this would be a good time to join. We meet in Room 5 on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00. If you would like to participate but cannot attend physically, we have a Zoom option that several ladies find helpful. Please contact Joyce Lindstrom (314-576-4209 or [jlindstrom@stchas.edu](mailto:jlindstrom@stchas.edu)) for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!



**Women's Fellowship** celebrated Valentines Day at their February meeting.

Their next meeting will be March 9 at 11:30am. Bring your lunch join the fellowship. Drinks and dessert are provided.



### **Prayer Shawl News**

Don and I had the privilege recently of delivering Prayer Shawls from St. Paul's to a group in Kentucky. The 41st St Family Care Center is in a rough part of Louisville and was developed by a woman who lived in the neighborhood. The goal is keeping families together and working to reach young and old people. There are several older women who come to the center for Bible study, meals or special activities. Andrea Barbour, the director, was thrilled to get the shawls and knows they will be a blessing to all who receive them. Pictured is the box we delivered, with Andrea on the right and Valerie Wells, her "right hand woman" on the left. They are each wearing the shawls they received. I am thankful for the women at St Paul's that carry on this behind-the-scenes but special ministry.

-Julie Price



**Mom Connect**  
CHRIST-CENTERED FELLOWSHIP, TEACHING, & CARE

St. Paul's Evangelical Free Church  
+314.993.0015  
stpauls@stpaulsefree.org  
facebook.com/groups/momconnectstpauls  
9801 Olive Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63141

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 for details on events and programs.

**Pastor Don joined some of the kids during a recent Playdate**



**W** Help St. Paul's Continue to be a *Welcoming Church*  
St. Paul's is known as a friendly place to visit (and eventually call church home). In keeping this environment, we are in need a some *Welcoming Team Members*. Can you help occasionally in the following areas:

- E** ♦ Greeter - providing a Sunday morning "hello" as folks enter the building for worship
- L** ♦ Host - welcoming our visitors after worship service, providing more information about St. Paul's
- C** ♦ Usher - assisting in the sanctuary area with seating, guidance, and assistance during the worship time

Please contact the Church Office to let us now how, where, and how often that you would like to help.

**COM** Fellowship Time Update

A big thank you to everyone who has helped with Fellowship time since it began again.

**E** Starting in March, we will have donuts once per month on the 2nd Sunday. We would also like to provide coffee and tea every week. For this to happen, help is needed in making coffee and with cleanup after. With the help of many, the burden can be taken off of just a few.

Sign up to help on the sheet posted in the multipurpose room.  
Any questions? Call Lynn May - Kitchen chair/manager 314-623-4526

The **2022 Life Summit**, presented by Churches for Life, will be held on Saturday April 9th at West County Assembly of God from 8:00 to 1:30. The theme this year is A Biblical View of Bioethics by Dr. Jay Wippiold.

Some of the workshops being presented are: Making Life Disciples, Sex-Trafficking and the Responses of the church, Train Up Your Children for Life and much more. The Life Team will again offer free registration to the first 10 who are interested in attending. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Barbara vanDyk at 314-610-3578.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



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  
 Eileen Carlson 3/19

Clarissa van Raalten 3/19  
 Eddie Lebsock 3/22  
 Frances Robertson 3/22  
 David Aslin 3/23  
 Julia Appel 3/25  
 David Sohn 3/25  
 Kate Alstadt 3/27  
 Dennis Jayne 3/27  
 Kathy Sparks 3/27  
 Kurt van Dyk 3/27  
 Kevin Graeler 3/28  
 Judy Sprecher 3/28  
 Clarice Beckemeier 3/29  
 Ruth Marsh 3/29  
 Rob Neier 3/29  
 Heidi Aslin 3/30  
 Harry Bauer 3/30

James Coste 3/31  
 Phyllis Stadler 4/1  
 Amanda Frederick 4/2  
 Lois Percival 4/2  
 Joanne Scholl 4/3  
 Bob Kallemeier 4/4  
 Larry Smith 4/4  
 Cindy Bodenschatz 4/5  
 Richard Tappmeyer 4/5  
 Eric Potratz 4/6  
 Robb Hicks 4/7  
 Evan Paquette 4/7  
 Grant Ives 4/8  
 Ralph Percival 4/8  
 Nancy Cash 4/9  
 Leanne Davis 4/10



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Ruth & Richard Marsh  
 Scott & Elizabeth Schurwan  
 Lendy & Neil Middendorf  
 Fred & Donna Triebe  
 Maria & Jorge del Cid  
 Carolyn & Art Maclean  
 Edward & Carol Teter

<u>Years</u>	<u>Date</u>
45	3/5
11	3/5
16	3/11
44	3/11
24	3/21
1	3/23
68	3/27

**Ruth Effinger**  
 11210 Schuetz Rd, #216  
 St. Louis, MO 63146  
 314-743-8965



**Pun-of-the-Month**



" Your car has been keyed. The good news is that the damage appears to B minor. "

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.

#### Wednesdays

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

#### Thursdays

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

3/2 Ash Wednesday  
Worship Service // 7pm

3/6 Communion

3/9 Women's Fellowship // 11:30am  
Lenten Prayer Service // 7pm

3/10 Deacons // 5:30pm  
Elders // 7pm

3/16 Lenten Prayer Service // 7pm

3/23 Lenten Prayer Service // 7pm

3/30 Lenten Prayer Service // 7pm