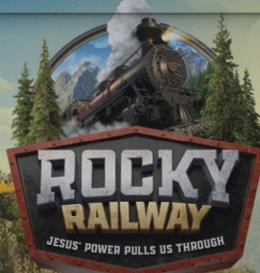




**Register for VBS and
enjoy a free family
meal each night before
the program.**

June 13-17 5:30-8pm Age 4 - Grade 6
vbspro.events/p/events/stpaulsefree



**Church Potluck
Sunday, May 22
Noon**

Bring a meal to share

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

From the Pastor's Desk:

Most of us are like the good folks in Jerusalem back in Nehemiah's times, we want to keep the commitments we have made to God. It just seems, again like the Israelites back in Jerusalem, that the pressures of everyday life, the weaknesses in our basic personalities which keep cropping up, the temptations of the world, and the "stinkin' thinkin'" we have developed over the years, often keeps us from keeping those commitments. So we "bounce along" in our Christian lives missing out on many blessings God has waiting for us.

I once heard a story of a man who went to heaven and saw a huge room full of all kinds of presents and good things. Out of curiosity he asked Saint Peter what they were. His reply, "Oh, those are some of the blessings, the good things, God had for you that you never asked Him for; that you failed to believe Him during your life on earth."

That is why I have always felt like one of the values, the guiding principles, of any organization, church, or team should be accountability. I define accountability as "helping people keep their commitments to God." Notice, it is others helping me keep my commitments to God. I give my brother or sister permission to check up on me, to encourage me in my walk with King Jesus. This works best in the context of relationships that are developed in small groups and existing groups of families and friends.

So, accountability is a positive thing. It is not a brother forcing his convictions on me. Rather it is me saying to my brother, "Here is my struggle, my conviction, my commitment to God. Will you pray for me, the courage and strength to keep it, and check up on me regularly?"

Bill Hull writes in his book, The Disciple Making Church, "The modern church knows little about the positives of accountability. When you only pay attention to a person's lifestyle, when his actions become a church-discipline issue, he will almost always respond negatively. By ignoring the little things and pouncing on the big ones, you ask for trouble. If you work on the little things that build faithfulness, character and relationship, you prevent most larger problems by heading them off before they happen."

Some thoughts hang in my head:

1. Accountability is always based on one person's relationship with another. Unless a loving, affirming environment exists (small groups, family units), you cannot hold anyone accountable.
2. Accountability has been modeled for us by Jesus and then by His disciples as they took the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.
3. We can't make disciples without accountability.
4. Leaders, especially, must be held accountable by others in authority. Authority to make decisions carries a responsibility that often causes our strengths to become weaknesses. This issue is crucial because the price tag of failure of a leader is so high.
5. Have you got someone in your life that loves you enough to come along side and help you keep your commitments to God? I pray so. "*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*" – Proverbs 27:17. "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*" -- Proverbs 27:6.

Thank God for answering prayer! Thanks, as well, to all who have participated in our prayer vigils and meetings during Lent. We have had some encouragement here at St. Paul's lately. New members, new attendees, and many visitors. Julie joins me in sending our love and our hope that you will have a great May.

Let me know if there is something I might be able to do for you. Sometimes I am unaware of a need in the church. The elders stand ready to pray for you and serve you as well. Please continue to pray for us and for the Transition Team as we prepare for the second retreat – scheduled for Friday night and Saturday morning, May 20 and 21.

Blessings and love,
Don

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWS

By Lisa Stahlhut

A huge thank you to everyone that filled eggs for our annual hunt. The children LOVED being able to collect so many eggs and were thrilled with all the candy, trinkets, money, etc., they found inside.

On May 8, we will be opening our new Children's Library. It is located down the Sunday School hall, across from the orange room. It is filled with books for all ages of children. The books range from board books to chapter books for older children. Both religious stories and secular stories are included. Books will be borrowed on an honor system, and can be returned in our book return box that Frank Serdy so willingly built for us. Our hope is that this library will be utilized by lots of children!

Plans are taking shape for VBS this summer which will be held June 13-17.

Our theme will be Rocky Railroad, a faith-filled adventure where kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs! We will begin each evening at 5:30 pm with a free family dinner. Online registration will be up and ready to go in the near future, so be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about it! As always, we need more help, so please see Pastor Daniel, or myself, if you think you can help us out. We have openings for all different kinds of volunteers, no experience is necessary. Please consider helping out if you can!

Our monthly bags will continue through the summer, offering children the chance to stay connected with church. Be sure and check the Welcome Center each month to pick yours up.

An Invitation from the Jung family:

Come join us to *Celebrate the life of Alma Jung*
May 28, 1pm-7pm
at Vago Park in Maryland Heights
2700 Fee Fee, Maryland Heights MO 63043
(American Legion Pavilion)

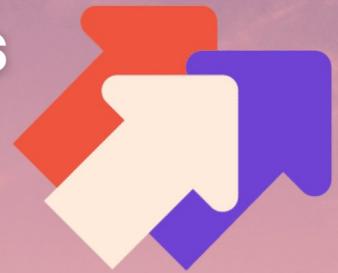


*Alma passed away on May 27, 2020

Bring your memories to share.

Memorials can be sent to NHC of Maryland Heights, 2920 Fee Fee, Maryland Heights, MO 63043 c/o Alma Jung Memorial.

Find more of what Jesus has for you. Register for the Challenge youth conference today.



Ask pastor Daniel for an application!

- PRAISE & WORSHIP
- CAMP FIRES
- SWIMMING
- ARCHERY
- CREEK WALKS
- CRAFT
- WORSHIP WORKSHOPS



kkcstl.org

KING'S KIDS CAMP 2022

FOR KIDS GOING INTO GRADES 4-9



July 17 - 22

FEATURED MISSIONARY



David is the Director for Apex. With 20 years of leading student ministry in the local church (including St. Paul's) he was invited to lead Apex in 2017. David is passionate about mobilizing students and continues to strive to reach the goal of helping 100 next generation students get on the field by 2025. David sees great hope and potential in young people and loves the energy this age group has to change the world and make an impact for the kingdom of God. He and his wife Shawna live in Pennsylvania with their two sons Tyler and Will.

Women's Brunch

Join the women of the Wednesday Morning Bible Study and the Women's Fellowship as they gather for brunch at 9:30, Wednesday May 11.

Our Speaker will be our Missionary to South St. Louis City, Ryan Irwin.

We will also celebrate our Mother's day baby shower by bringing gifts for Sweet Babies (see collection container in the Welcome Center). Call Grace for more information 314-429-2740.

Provide comfort for new babies. Donate to our baby care drive April 13-May 10.



Find details at our welcome center.

EASTER HIGHLIGHTS



TRANSITION TEAM NEWS

The team continues to work and move forward with meetings, collecting data, and analyzing the results. The team will be meeting this month to discuss and review the ongoing efforts and results

There are several tools being used to help evaluate our church. These tools are standards in churches that help provide insight into our church health and identify strengths and weaknesses where leadership attention is required.

The Journey wall meeting gained insight from the congregation about events in our church history that were both positive and negative. Most of the negative comments on the Journey Wall centered around the lawsuit, COVID related issues, and loss of relationship (both pastors and staff). Many of the God sightings noted were personal events in people's lives.

The Core Values Audit performed as part of the Journey Wall discussion provided the following top core values of St. Paul's:

1. Bible-Centered Preaching/Worship
2. Praise & Worship
3. Christian Education – All Ages
4. Godly Servant Leadership
5. Intercessory Prayer
6. World Missions
7. Fellowship/Community

8. Financial Responsibility
9. Committed Christians – Discipleship
10. Welcoming Visitors

The NCD (National Church Development) survey has been completed to determine the health of St. Paul's.

The Church Life Cycle Assessment is used to review and understand where St Paul's is today in a 'normal' church lifecycle. Understanding this will help us to strategize our approach for the future.

The SWOT analysis (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threats) is another tool used to access different facets of St. Paul's Church. The congregation was asked to provide input.

Interviews of community leaders are ongoing, and include, police, education, political and other community leaders. These interviews are being reviewed to provide insights into our community and the needs which St Paul's can focus our ministries in the future.

The Lenten Prayer services served to focus St Paul's on the importance of seeking God's will for our congregation as we move forward. Worship and prayer times were supplemented with testimonies of how prayer has impacted the lives of our friends and community.

Continue to pray for St. Paul's congregation, the leadership, and the Transition Team to know and walk in the will of God.

Helping a Child in Need from Belarus

During one of our Wednesday evening Lenten services, St Paul's had guests join us from the Russian Ukrainian Baptist Church of St. Louis. Following our prayer time, we asked what we at St. Paul's could do to help them. A woman named Mila Kholostov said there was a young mother (Irena Prohvatilov and her 4 yr. old son Matvei - "Matthew") coming to St Louis from Belarus. Mila and her family felt led to house them during their stay, even though they had never met. (Mila and her husband felt God calling them to open their home more to others in need.)

Matthew was badly in need of surgery on his spine to correct deformity from cerebral palsy. As his mother searched the internet for help, she found one of the best places in the world for his surgery was at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, right here in St Louis. Her church in Belarus, plus the Slavic Church Association in the Midwest, which includes the Russian Ukrainian Baptist Church of St Louis, raised the funds for the surgery and their travel.

Knowing no one in St Louis and not speaking English well, Irina left her husband and two other children (a 1 ½ year old girl, Maria, and Matthew's twin brother, Timothy, who was born perfectly healthy) and traveled to St Louis with Matthew by herself. On April 6, he had surgery performed by Dr. Park, a neurosurgeon world renowned for his success with cerebral palsy.

Several people from St Paul's volunteered to assist Irena with driving to and from the hospital for the surgery and also the physical therapy that has followed. Irena stayed at the Ronald McDonald house, inside the hospital, while Matthew was in the hospital.

We are happy to report that Matthew is doing well after his surgery and physical therapy, which was 5 days per week, both at the hospital and at home. Irena is amazed at how well he was able to stand so quickly after surgery. They will be returning home to Belarus on May 11th. They want to thank St Paul's for the financial help we have been able to give to both Mila's family and Irena. Thank you to the family who donated a new car seat for Matthew and also for the women who have taken time to drive Irena and Matthew to and from appointments: Maria del Cid, Christy Drake, Mary Smith, Barbara van Dyk. She has been blessed by her interaction with each of you!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Sarah Crews	5/1	Evans Ives	5/14	Richard Scholl	5/24
Conway Wong	5/1	Fred Triebe	5/14	Fred Vollmer	5/24
Cindy Glauert	5/5	Juliet Daniel	5/15	Faye Eichholz	5/25
Kelly Cug	5/7	Kathy Fischer	5/16	Mary Broky	5/26
David Oliver	5/7	Larry Jackson	5/16	Lendy Middendorf	5/27
Ginnie Thomas	5/8	Jane Fischer	5/17	Olivia Neier	5/27
James Knappenberger	5/9	Delcie Payne	5/17	Frank May	5/29
Carol Teter	5/10	Charlie Bensing	5/21	Jennifer Steimel	5/30
Marlene Eschenbrenner	5/12	Kim Paquette	5/22	Roger Lindstrom	6/1
Katie Paquette	5/12	Bob Summers	5/22	Elaine Gabler	6/2
Janet Jung	5/13	Jerri Gill	5/23	Nick Palombo	6/2
Bobbie Blackmer	5/14	Barbara Hueffmeier	5/23	Jack Owens	6/3
Ron Hueffmeier	5/14	Caius Sjogren	5/23	Easton Hohmann	6/5
Drake Ives	5/14	Phyllis Caesar	5/24	Bill Mueller	6/5
		Joe Pollmann	5/24	Susan Andrews	6/10



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

	<u>Years</u>	<u>Date</u>
Jeff & Tera Stahlhut	11	5/8
Arthur & Jill Pasteris	45	5/21
Frank & Lynn May	52	5/23
Dennis & Donna Jayne	48	5/25
Jamie & Betsy Stull	37	5/25
Bob & Betty Binns	60	5/26
Brian & Elizabeth Thomas	43	5/26
Marco & Kari van Raalten	32	5/26
Kevin & Laura Graeler	6	5/29
Stefan & Kelly Cug	9	6/1
Michael & Sharon McGaully	59	6/1
Conway & Letitia Wong	22	6/3
David & Amanda Frederick	11	6/4

When you're driving but you can't see that well



Pun-of-the-Month

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 Project Linus	9:30 a.m.
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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.

5/5	White Cross // 9am
5/8	MOTHER'S DAY
5/11	Women's Brunch // 9:30am
5/12	Deacons // 5:30pm Elders // 7pm
5/19	White Cross // 9am
5/20	Transition Team // 6pm
5/21	Transition Team // 7am
5/22	Potluck Lunch // Noon
5/30	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED