

From Pastor David

“The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus”. -1 Timothy 1:14

The best way to share your faith with others is simply to be ready and willing to tell about how God has helped you in your life.

Think of how you easily recommend a good restaurant you’ve found, how you quickly encourage even a stranger in the grocery line to try your favorite app, or how you enjoy passing along a hack you’ve discovered for cleaning the grill. It’s a joy to pass along ideas and solutions to others, especially if it could really help them out.

Sharing about our faith in Jesus can seem a lot harder. People may not appreciate hearing about religion or our spiritual beliefs. You don’t want to be seen as “that kind of person.”

But faith sharing is not really talking religion, or even talking about what we believe. There are times and opportunities that we can explain what Christians believe and why. But that’s not what faith sharing is.

It’s sharing from what we have experienced. This is the key difference. It’s not sharing beliefs (information), it’s sharing experience (inspiration). You have experienced God’s presence and help. Jesus has made a difference in your life. You have found the Holy Spirit guiding you, giving you inner peace and bringing about a change.

So, the first step in faith sharing is to reflect on your experiences of God in your life. How have you experienced God’s help? How has God seen you through difficulties that you could not have gotten through on your own? What joys and blessings has God given you? Think about specific instances, examples, stories.

The next step is to wait for natural, easy “open doors” in your regular conversations. In your normal interactions with others, they will share details from their own lives that will be an “open door” for you to share about how God has been important to you.

It’s like when someone shares that they are going to go out for dinner this Friday. This is when you would naturally pitch your new restaurant recommendation: “Oh, have you tried The Green Grill? It’s my new favorite! You’d love it!” Or when your coworker says he’s going to fire up the grill for the family gathering this weekend. That’s when you say, “Hey, I’ve learned that when you turn your grill on to 500 degrees for 15 minutes, it cleans the grill and makes it super easy to simply wipe down with a cloth ready for use.”

Same with faith sharing. When a coworker shares about problems with the kids, that’s when you can share about how Jesus helped you become a better parent. When a neighbor confides in you that they’re having relationship struggles, you can encourage them by how the Holy Spirit helped change you to save your relationship. When a friend discloses her struggle with money and spending, you can respond by how God’s principles for money are helping you get out of debt. Then, before you finish, ask if it would be okay if you prayed for them. And, with the boldness from the Holy Spirit, you can even offer to pray WITH them, right then and there.

That’s what faith sharing is! It is sharing how Jesus has—and continues—to make a difference in your life.

I also want to ask you to consider sharing a God moment from your life with the rest of us. Perhaps you could record a 3-5 minute story of how God has really helped you in an impactful way. You can record yourself on your own device, or come into the church and have Tim record you sometime. A couple of tips are to include an object or picture if you can, a Bible verse, and a brief, closing prayer. Again, overall length need not be more than 3-5 minutes. Simply email it to the church office. We want to include faith sharing videos in worship each week this summer. You can be a part of that!

Reflect on how being a Christian has had an impact on your life. Then ask the Holy Spirit what story you could share. After all, we each has experienced the richness of the grace of our Lord...poured out on us abundantly. Share about it!

Pastor David

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Announcements

Dear Pastor and Congregation of Evangel United Methodist Church:

Thank you for paying 100 percent apportionments in 2022! Your giving makes a powerful difference as we enter this post-pandemic season of ministry. It is a vital witness to the ways we live out our Wesleyan heritage and our connection with one another, even in the divisive world around us.

As I travel around the district, I hear over and over how valuable our connection with one another is. I hear people say we are better together. I sit with clergy who pray for one another, despite their many differences. I witness the ways churches are working together, sharing Bible studies, worship, and missions. These last few years may have made us feel more isolated, but they clarified for us the benefits of being a Christian community together. They have reminded us of the value of being Methodists, in connection. Because of you, lay people are encouraged in their calling. New resources are developed for local churches. Clergy are supported in their ministry. Missions, locally and around the country and world, continue to flourish.

Together, apportionments are used to support a variety of ministries at all levels of the United Methodist Church. Your congregation joins 50 others in our River Valley District in paying apportionments in full. I appreciate your steadfast faithfulness to our ministry.

Together, our apportionments fuel the Minnesota Annual Conference, and the worldwide United Methodist Church, as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. May God bless our giving, and our ministry.

In Christ,
Michelle Hargrave
River Valley District Superintendent



Cut-Ups at Assisi Heights

Wednesdays, June 7 & June 21 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
1001 14th St NW, Rochester, MN 55901

Bundles of Love needs people to sew infant onesies, gowns, and sleepers. You can make these at your home or at the Assisi Heights workroom. The items are cut and assembled into kits for you. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact June Lee-Cahoon at 507-216-1686; june.lee-cahoon@bundlesoflove.org.

Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 4!



Evangel is planning a special celebration to honor our graduates this spring. If you have a graduate in the family (high school, college or otherwise): 1. Save the date, and 2. Let the church office know!

Financial Summary

On behalf of the Finance Committee, here is a financial summary of the operations of the church through April 2023. The financial contributions of the church have been great so far in 2023 and we are thankful for those that have met their financial estimate of giving.

January — April 2023

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Income from Church Congregation Giving | \$ 191,906 |
| Other Operating Income | \$ 24,799 |
| Total Income from Operations | \$ 216,705 |
| Total Expense from Operations | \$ 228,433 |
| Net Income / (Loss) from Operations | \$ (11,729) |

As you can see, we are currently operating at a \$11,729 loss for the year. A reason for the loss has been some unexpected expenses early in the year. Another reason is the anticipated shortfall of income in 2023. Please know we as the Finance Committee will continue to monitor the cost of operating the church and provide reports through the newsletter in 2023. For more information, please reach out to Mark Homard chair of the Evangel Finance Committee (Homard.Mark@mayo.edu).

Evangel Christian Education

Jim Klepper: jklepper@evangelum.org
 Clancy Craven: ccraven@evangelum.org
 Phone: (507) 289-4817



Christian Education Calendar

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Every Sunday..... | Children’s Church at 9:10 & 10:30 a.m. |
| Every Wednesday..... | Bible story time at 9:00 a.m. |
| Throughout June | Early Bird Registration for Mega Kids Camp |
| Throughout June..... | Spring/Summer Connect Groups |
| Sunday, June 4..... | Graduate Recognition Sunday |
| TBA..... | Kids Club Butterfly Garden Planting |
| June 8..... | “Take A Hike at Quarry Hill” Connect Group begins |
| June 15 | Appreciation Party for Sunday School Teachers, Youth Leaders, Connect Group Leaders and Their Families |
| July 17 – 20 | Mega Kids Camp “Good Vibes Only” |
| Saturday, July 22..... | Twins vs. White Sox at Target Field |

Thank you for a Terrific Sunday School Year as We Went “Searching for Jesus”

Here we are at the conclusion of another Sunday School year. What a year it has been! Following Kick Off Sunday on September 11 was entire year of Sunday School, a dozen Kids Club events, an Intergenerational Christmas program, the relaunch of Evangel’s youth group, outreach events like “Trunk or Treat,” Connect Groups, the Annual Rummage Sale, the Easter Egg Hunt, Bible Storytime with the Good News Daycare children, and so much more! It has been quite a ride.

But the most important part of Sunday School was the one-on-one time our teachers had with students. It was the caring and listening, the laughing and sharing and simply being present with their students. It was amazing to teach and study God’s word together and pass the faith to new generations. Every Sunday school teacher did that with hearts fully engaged! What a privilege it has been for Jim and Clancy to witness our loving teachers at work every Sunday. Words cannot express our appreciation for our Sunday school staff.

We believe people will find Jesus through relationship and we believe our teachers provided that relationship with an anointing of the Holy Spirit. We know so many lives have been touched, changed and transformed in Jesus’ name!

“First a child learns to love their teacher... then they learn to love their teachers God”.

End of the Year Pool Party for Sunday School Teachers, Youth Group & Connect Group Leaders on June 15



Evangel’s teachers and group leaders have shared themselves generously with their time and talents. Now it is time to appreciate them with a year-end party!

Mark and Leslie Clark have opened their home to all teachers, youth and Connect Group leaders and their families to enjoy some outdoor time around (or in) their pool. The Clark’s have a beautiful setting and lots of space for all of us indoors or outdoors, rain or shine.

The party will be Thursday, June 15 starting at 5:30 p.m. No need to cook dinner that night...a taco bar with beverages will be provided! If you want to swim, bring your suit and a towel. Stop in for a minute or stay all night!

Invitations will come soon. We hope you can come on June 15 so we can pamper you for a great year!

High School & College Graduates Recognized on June 4!

Join in for Graduate Recognition Sunday on June 4 at both services with a special video and Bible presentation. The joy of one becomes the joy of all! We hope you can be with us in-person or online.



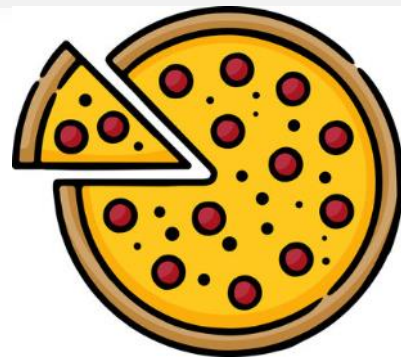
“Feed the Need ” Food Wall for the Salvation Army Food Shelf on May 13 was a Success!

The Evangel Christian Education outreach event collecting food for the hungry was a wonderful success. An estimated **\$15,000** of food was collected weighing in at **9,500 lbs.** A large group of volunteers from the Salvation Army and Evangel worked all day to serve our community. Evangel was responsible for around **\$9,000** dollars of contributions both in food and cash. Our mini food wall in the lobby was not so mini in the end. Floor to ceiling food was a sight to behold, stretching across the back of the lobby and even winding around each side to form a bending food wall. When we took the food down to the Salvation Army later in the day on May 13, we discovered the food shelf was BARE. Almost zero food was on the shelves. When we finished unloading all the food from the moving truck, the food shelf was FULL and all the storage areas filled as well. Thank you Evangel family for your incredible generosity! You have met a real need in our city for a foundational life resource for hundreds of hurting people.



FOOD SHELF

End of the Year Youth Party was on May 19!



The Minnesota Twins vs. the Chicago White Sox at Target Field on Saturday July 22!



Enjoy hot dogs, pizza, and cracker jacks while you watch the Twins take on the Chicago White Sox with your Evangel Family on Saturday, July 22. Buses will be available to take from the church up to Target Field.

Round trip transportation and a ticket to the game will be only \$39 (a significant savings on the bus transportation). Tickets are \$23.00 if you drive yourself.



At present we have 75 tickets on reserve. We must have your reservation by June 30 to ensure you can sit in the same section with your Evangel family and friends.

Busses will depart Evangel around 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. The game begins at 1:10 p.m.

To sign up go to evangelum.org > Connect Groups > Twins Game. You can also call the church office or email Jim and Clancy. A lobby display will be in the lobby starting in July. Remember to invite your friends. We hope to see you on July 22 to cheer on the Twins!

Evangel Kids Club and Butterfly Gardens Coming Soon

The Trustees and Church Council have approved our Kids Club proposal for a butterfly garden on the Evangel grounds. We will begin plans to install the garden as soon as the plants arrive from the Minnesota Conservation Corps.

We hope to pull together enough families to help the Trustees install the garden. This will include removing old sod, planting the pollinator plants, and finishing off with edging to keep the butterfly garden free from invasive ground species.

What a wonderful gift from our Kids Club to the environment God created. Stay tuned for dates of planting and all the fun to install the garden.



Mega Kids Camp is Over 450 Children! Volunteers are Needed this Summer to Help Us Reach Kids for Christ!

Mega Kids Camp has already broken our registration record and we still have a little under 2 months to go before camp on July 17-20. We will consider limiting registrations as we consult with our church partner Autumn Ridge. We must be able to accommodate the campers who register.

We need all hands on deck this summer for whatever the final registration number will be. Some jobs are prior to Mega Camp, some jobs require only an hour a day (registration) and the rest of the jobs only require one morning for four days at the end of July. It is a very short-term commitment!



As you consider volunteering for Mega Kids Camp, please know the incredible impact Mega Kids Camp has on children's lives. **All of our 2023 confirmands mentioned Mega Kids Camp as an influence on confirming their faith in Jesus during their personal faith testimonies on Confirmation Sunday!**

If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact Jim Klepper (jklepper@evangelum.org) or Clancy Craven (ccraven@evangelum.org) or go to the church website and click Mega Kids Camp Volunteers.



Our Sunday School Children and Church Family Raised \$400 in the Noisy Offering Box this Year!

We recently cashed in the coins and bills from the Sunday School noisy offering box and the total as of Sunday May 21 was almost \$400.00! Those coins and small bills add up.

As voted by Sunday school classes last spring, half the money has gone to the Salvation Army food wall and the other half to the Ronald McDonald House. \$200 of food was purchased for the food wall and the rest of the money will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald house very soon.

Thank you so much for helping us teach stewardship and generosity to our children.

Announcements (cont.)

Nazarene Well House Needs Part-time Hosts

The Nazarene Well House provides affordable lodging for people visiting Rochester for medical appointments. Full-time hosts Ken and Erin Kauffman are looking for volunteers to serve as temporary hosts on weekends and longer periods while they are on vacation or out-of-town. Duties include light housekeeping, laundry, preparing rooms, checking in guests, picking up food donations, and most importantly providing a warm welcome. Ken and Erin will provide training. If you are interested, please contact Erin at 507-398-1420; nwh.host@gmail.com. You can also contact Gordy and Jackie Hall at 507-398-4814; gandjhall@bevcomm.net.

Share a Bouquet from Your Garden

Spring flowers are blooming and flower gardens will be blooming soon. Consider sharing a bouquet from your garden and placing it at the Welcome Center. Let's welcome everyone with bouquets of God's creation!



That's a wrap folks...

We concluded our program year with a game night and campfire on May 19. What a year it has been! When Andy and I started out on this adventure just about a year ago, we had no idea of what direction the Evangel Youth Program would take, and it has certainly taken directions that we could not have imagined. **We are countering the trend where youth programs are dying out or non-existent.**

At our campfire, I asked people to share about their experiences over the past year. It was heart warming to hear from both the youth and the adult leaders. I truly believe that the adult leaders got as much (if not more) from this youth program than the kids did. Some of the things the adults mentioned were:

- Watching the kids dive not the Word.
- Asking tough and insightful questions.
- Bringing their heart for worship and learning new music.
- The inability to stay quiet while playing the game sardines.
- Watching them grow together as a group.
- Finding creative ways to be present in our congregation.
- Hearing kids step out in courage and offering prayers for the group.
- The invitation to friends. Our kids do a better job of inviting people to church than the adults do.
- On any given Friday night, 50% of the kids in attendance are not Evangel Kids.

But things don't stop there. There are several things to watch for over the summer:

- Pop up youth events. We have been contacted by several local Methodist churches to help create a regional youth event for smaller churches to have something for their kids to participate in.
- Mission trip in July
- Commissioning service July 23
- Youth Mission Service in August
- MEGA Kids Camp in July

Finally, looking ahead to the 23-24 Program Year:

- Youth Kick of Rally (grades 6-12) September 15, 7-9 PM
- We will be meeting again on Friday night.
- Mission trip dates should be available in early fall.

Have you caught your breath yet? We are always looking for additional adult support and truly we can use it. We will be addressing this need in the months to come, please take the time to consider how you are willing to help out.

From the youth leadership team: Peter Kroneman, Andy McCright, Lane and Anita Hermanson, Mandi Ellenbaum, Steve and Jen Hull, Jim Klepper & Pastor David Werner



Youth Leaders

Peter Kroneman
507-280-5801

tandpkroneman@hotmail.com

Andy McCright
507-208-0107
amccright@gmail.com



Spiritual Wellness



Those we *Love*
don't go away.

They *Walk* beside us
every day. Unseen, unheard,

but always *Near*,
so loved, so missed,
so very

Dear.

Pray a Word a Day - Connecting with God one word at a time

Thanks is the word for today.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.” – 1 Chronicles 16:34 NIV

I often start my day reluctantly. Sluggish, groggy, grumpy. However, so much changes when I turn to my daily habit of saying thanks. Thanks for a good night’s sleep; thanks for the bed and pillow; thanks for the hot water and indoor plumbing (have you ever lived without?); thanks for toothpaste, for soap, for a roof over my head; thanks for clothes to wear, food to eat and coffee to drink, Amen!

That short and simple word “thanks” can set (or change) the tone of your whole day. Try it. Start your day with it and punctuate your day with it. See how many things you can say “thanks” for today. Smiling is another way to share your blessings with others. It’s a simple thing to do but can make a big difference as you meet and greet others.

God, thank You for this day and for the many good reasons I have to say “thanks.” Amen

Fun Family Traditions That Foster Togetherness

Each month we will share easy ways to make every month of the year memorable for your family. Take a picture to help recall what memories you created.



June

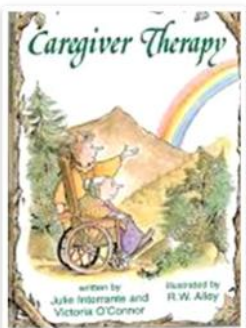
- Play a game of baseball
- Pack a picnic
- Go blueberry picking
- Make blueberry muffins
- Hunt lighting bugs
- Take breakfast in bed for Dad or Grandpa
- Host an ice cream social (have friends bring their favorite topping
- Make “Sun Tea”
- Eat strawberry shortcake
- Have a hula hoop contest include the adults in your family
- Can pickles and preserves



THE BEST FLAG

by Lenore Hetrick

I know my flag is a good flag,
It represents my land!
The best land in the world!
So proudly here I stand
With a smile upon my face,
And my dear flag in my hand



Caregiver Therapy

This easy-to-read booklet from “Care Notes” shows you how to take care of yourself as you take care of someone else. It invites you to deepen and enrich your caregiving experience, opening your heart to others and opening your spirit to lessons of love and trust.

Lesson 16:

Respect your own needs and boundaries. Others feel more relaxed to ask for what they want if they know you’ll take care of yourself and say no when you must. And you’ll better understand the needs of others when you meet your own needs.

Missions Team Meeting

Sunday, June 4 at 12:00 p.m. in room 221.

Missions

To see the locations of missionaries and missions Evangel is supporting in 2023, check out the world map on the Mission Team bulletin board across from room 223. Communications we have received from those missions are posted on the board.

The Mission Team will be meeting on Sunday, June 4 at 12:00 p.m. after church in the Fireside Room. The team will be reviewing the status of the missions and missionaries Evangel supports; discuss ways the church can support the relief efforts of the Midwest Mission Center, and identify potential Mission Moment presentations during upcoming church services. All are invited to sit in on the meeting to get a better idea about how Evangel supports global missions or to even consider becoming a member of the Mission Team.

A big thank to all of you who donated dish soap and shampoo for the Midwest Mission Center and donations to the "Feed the Need" food drive.

Newsletters and videos received from missionaries and missions Evangel supports can be viewed by going to www.evangelum.org > Ministries > Missionaries. Recent news on missions/missionaries can be found on the Mission Bulletin Board located in the hallway across from Room 223.

If there is a mission or missionary listed on Evangel's website you would like to financially support, send a check to the Church office and designate which mission. You can also give to the Mission team through the Evangel website following the instructions below.

If you have ideas about missions or want to be actively involved with Missions, contact Pastor David or any member our team: Scott Kerl, Becky Pierce, Bev Morgan, Linda Gregg and Jim Cooper.

Here Is How To Give To a Missionary From The Evangel Website

1. Go to <http://www.evangelum.org>.
2. Click "Give" at the top of the screen
3. Click on "One-time"
4. Click on "Fund"
5. Click on "Missions"
6. Fill in the amount that you want to give
7. Click "Submit"!






Instant Church Directory™

**If you don't have the Instant Church Directory
on your mobile device,
Tim Morgan or Mike Aakre can help you out!
And don't forget to get your picture taken!**

June 2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|-----------|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | 7:30 p.m. Choir | 11:00 a.m. Older Folders 1:00 p.m. Jean Anderson Celebration of Life | |
| 4 Graduation Recognition | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 8:30 a.m. Prayer For Worship 8:49 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:10 a.m. Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 12:00 p.m. Missions Team | 9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle | 6:00 p.m. Walking a Labyrinth at Assisi Heights 7:00 p.m. SPRC | 9:00 a.m. Cut Ups at Assisi Heights 6:15 p.m. Praise Team | 6:30 p.m. Finance Team 6:30 p.m. Take a Hike at Quarry Hill 7:30 p.m. Choir | 11:00 a.m. Older Folders | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 8:30 a.m. Prayer For Worship 8:49 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:10 a.m. Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 11:30 a.m. Community Ministries Team | 1:00 p.m. Sewing Circle 6:30 p.m. Mom's Oval | 6:30 p.m. Christian Education 7:00 p.m. Trustees | 1:00 p.m. Quilting & More 6:15 p.m. Praise Team | 5:30 p.m. End of the Year Pool Party 6:30 p.m. Take a Hike at Quarry Hill 7:30 p.m. Choir | 11:00 a.m. Older Folders | |
| 18 Father's Day | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 8:30 a.m. Prayer For Worship 8:49 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:10 a.m. Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 11:45 p.m. Hospitality Team | 1:00 p.m. Sewing Circle 6:30 p.m. Church Council | | 9:00 a.m. Cut Ups at Assisi Heights 6:15 p.m. Praise Team | 9:30 a.m. Older Folders 6:30 p.m. Take a Hike at Quarry Hill 7:30 p.m. Choir | 11:00 a.m. Older Folders | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 |
| 8:30 a.m. Prayer For Worship 8:49 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:10 a.m. Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 10:30 a.m. Children's Church | 1:00 p.m. Sewing Circle | | 6:15 p.m. Praise Team | 5:00 p.m. Sherry Perry Retirement Party 6:30 p.m. Take a Hike at Quarry Hill | 11:00 a.m. Older Folders | |

Evangel United Methodist Church
2645 North Broadway
Rochester, MN 55906

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Permit No. 359

(Address Service Requested)

Evangel Church exists to love God, love others, and be
Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Sunday Worship Services

8:49 a.m. Contemporary Service

9:10 a.m. Children's Church

10:30 a.m. Traditional Service

10:30 a.m. Children's Church

Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

