



# Faith matters

VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 4

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1851 CHURCH

# INTRODUCING PATHFINDER CHURCH

by **DION GARRETT** *Senior Pastor*

**W**ith as much history as we have it's dangerous to call anything "momentous." Our church has seen a Civil War, The Great Depression, two World Wars, a moon landing, and every conflict, downturn, and victory in-between since 1851. It's hard to imagine that anything could do much more than create a gentle ripple. But on October 28, 2018, on the same weekend we celebrated the 501 anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the voters of our church courageously decided to change our name. In a few months, our new name will be *Pathfinder Church*. I and everyone else present felt the significance of the moment, it was truly momentous.

And yet it wasn't original. Over our history we've decided on several name changes, each one made in order to be clearer about who we are and the God we represent.

**Evangelische Lutherische Eintrachts Gemeinde**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**St. John Lutheran Church**

**St. John Church**

I believe it's part of what has kept us thriving, 167 years after our founding, when so many other local congregations have gone the way of the woolly mammoth. Not just that we've adapted but that we've sought, generation after generation, to clarify who we are and the gospel we believe, for the sake

of those who don't yet know it. We take risks for the gospel and we put the mission of God first. It's who we are and what we do. And it's what keeps us surprisingly spry and vital at 167 years old.

As weeks have passed since our big decision, I'm pleased to report that I believe this was the *right* decision. I couldn't be more excited about our future as *Pathfinder Church*! For starters, I love the symbolism of *Pathfinder*, in my conversations I have noticed how regularly and easily the word "path" comes up. Then I think of how Jesus is the premiere "finder" of lost things and how he always goes before us to "make straight our paths." Just this week, I was sharing scripture with a woman going through a scary and uncertain time and I was led to Isaiah 42:16, where God says,

*"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar **paths** I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them."*

**Yes! God is our *Pathfinder*!**

I've also been thinking about how *Pathfinder Kids* sounds like an exciting place to be on Sunday mornings. Our middle and high school students are already latching on to it, It may even work well as a part of a future school name (we're in the middle of a process to help tell our school's story better too, so that's TBD, but make sure you check out the article on our LEAD School later in this issue.)



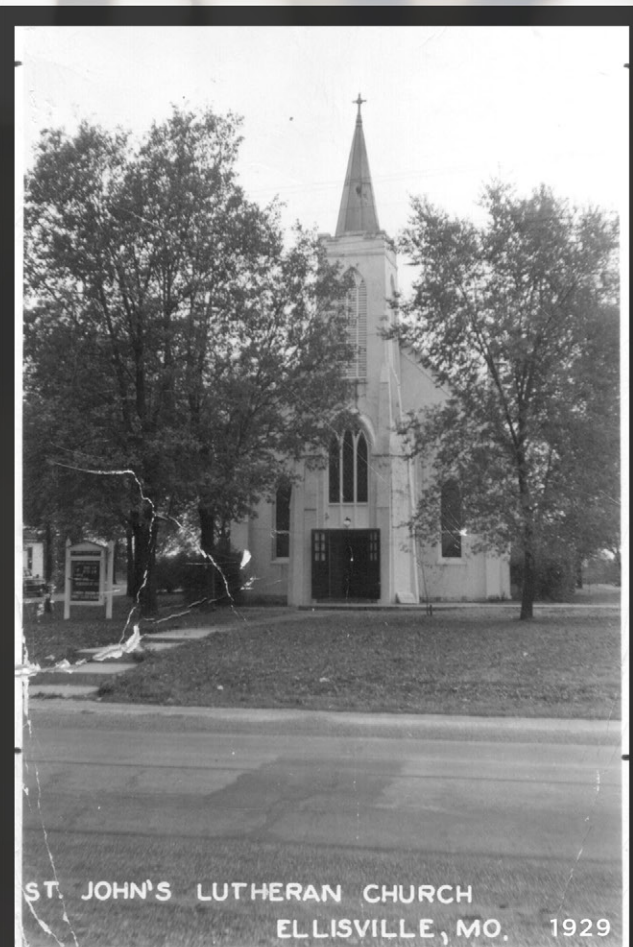
As I've tried it out with those outside of our church, explaining, "I'm on staff at St. John Church, soon to become Pathfinder Church." I've seen their eyes light up with curiosity; I've had some great conversations as a result of this decision.

Above all, I feel like it gives us the opportunity to communicate the heart of Jesus in a fresh way, a Savior who invites all to come and offers unconditional acceptance, who helps with the stuff of life, who doesn't shame us but inspires us, connects us to people and things that will bring life to us, a Savior who shepherds us as we go along the paths He's marked out for us. Our church has always been dedicated to helping weary travelers and sojourners, find their way to Jesus and through life. As I sit with this new name I feel that it's taken us awhile to land on the words, but at our core, we've been Pathfinder Church for some time!

We have a lot of work to do in order to do this well. Starting in January of 2019, we'll see much more about Pathfinder Church internally, but our external launch will happen a short time after that. Keep praying that we will make good on this opportunity we have been provided, so that many people who are far from God will meet him and receive the life he offers.

But 10, 20, or 100 years from now, when we look back at this decision and all the work that has gone into it, *will it be worth it?* It's a question many people asked me in the months leading up to our vote. After a few weeks to ponder, I'm convinced that this courageous, mission-focused decision will mean more than we can imagine. I am convinced that because of a name change, many more will come to find life in Jesus! One thing we know, most people in our community don't go to church ***because they've already been.*** A small percentage of people have no experience with church at all. Most have been to church at least a time or two...many have grown up in churches and deliberately walked away. The reason so many people are not in church is because *when they went*, they found churches to be rules-oriented, out of touch, exclusive, demanding, ritualistic, and anywhere on the spectrum between unfriendly to judgmental and condemning... in short, nothing like Jesus. Becoming Pathfinder Church will give us a chance to introduce

ourselves to our community as a different kind of church and be believed. More important, it will give us the opportunity to introduce more people to the real Jesus, and help them come to believe in him. I'm not the only one having promising conversations. I know many of you are too. There is a buzz already beginning out in our community and people are getting curious about what's going on at St. John/Pathfinder Church.



Before we close our present chapter we want to make sure we mark it well. Turning a page should never mean we forget what was on the previous ones, so we're working on some ways to mark our story. Under consideration are a floor to ceiling timeline of our story down the hallway next to our Sanctuary, and an outdoor heritage walk (pathway) as a part of our Phase 3 improvements. Few churches have a story as long and rich as ours and that story needs to be remembered & retold!





# 2 YEAR UPDATE

## — PHASE 1 — OBJECTIVES

- INTEGRATED DESIGN, CONCEAL CORDS, EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
- RESTORE SACRED FEEL
- FIX SOUND SYSTEM
- BRING UP TO DATE





# — PHASE 2 — OBJECTIVES

- NEW, MORE WELCOMING  
“FRONT DOOR”
- SPACE TO GATHER OVER  
FOOD & DRINK
- INCREASE WAYFINDING TO  
KEY AREAS
- SECURE KID’S MINISTRY

## 3 PILLARS OF NEXT

PURSUE PEOPLE LIKE NEVER BEFORE

MOBILIZE THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF WORLD CHANGERS

TAKE OUR CAMPUS TO THE  
NEXT LEVEL



# STILL TO COME — PHASE 3 —

- CREATE STRONGER CURB  
APPEAL & NAME RECOGNITION
- MORE GREENSPACE WITH  
INTUITIVE WAYFINDING
- ADDRESS PARKING FLOW &  
DROP-OFF POINTS



# PURSUING PEOPLE... MOBILIZING THE NEXT GENERATION...

**2 STJ LEAD SCHOOL**  
CLASSROOMS LAUNCHED

**5<sup>th</sup> ELEMENT** launched with **double** the attendance of the previous 5th grade program!

☒ **2 of 3 PHASES**  
☒ of NEXT campus improvements complete, paid with cash,  
☐ no new debt!

TWO HUNDRED SEVEN people have taken a step on their journey through  
**Getting Started**

**KIDS** ministry  
**250 Volunteers**  
ALL-TIME HIGH!

**10000+**  
People in attendance at 5 different community events

  
**167%**  
ADULT BAPTISMS

**142**  
STUDENTS WEEKLY AT  
**CORE & the SUMMIT**

**SOUNDS of CHRISTMAS**  
HOLY WEEK EXPERIENCE  
ELLISVILLE KIDS SAFETY DAY

 **PASTORAL VISITS**  **52%**

**MoXiE MATTERS**  
JEN HATMAKER | NICHOLE NORDEMAN

**family forward** 

 **3 IMPROMPTU BAPTISMS**  
AT THE INSPIRED SERVICE  
**117 SINCE NEXT BEGAN!**

**New Van**  
for Our Mission Partner



Improved Live Stream Audio  
Launched Facebook Live

    
**401 UNIQUE DEVICES** **42%**  
*Weekly Average*

**\$9,000**  
RAISED FOR  
**STRONGHOLD CAMBODIA**  
DURING VBS

**31% INCREASE**  
 **YouTube**  
SUBSCRIBERS

**EIGHTY NINE** MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS

## STILL TO COME — PHASE 3 —

- CREATE STRONGER CURB APPEAL & NAME RECOGNITION
- MORE GREENSPACE WITH INTUITIVE WAYFINDING
- ADDRESS PARKING FLOW & DROP-OFF POINTS



# FINANCIALS

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FULFILLING EVERY ASPECT OF OUR MINISTRY VISION.



EXPENSES FROM DECEMBER 2016 TO SEPTEMBER 2018

**33%**

## **PURSUE PEOPLE LIKE NEVER BEFORE**

WORSHIP, MISSIONS, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, GROUPS AND CARE, LIVESTREAM, & CREATIVE

**12%**

## **MOBILIZE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WORLD CHANGERS**

CHILDREN'S AND STUDENT MINISTRY, & SCHOOL TUITION SUPPORT

**20%**

## **TAKE OUR CAMPUS TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

REMODEL OF OUR SANCTUARY, COMMONS, & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**22%**

## **OPERATING EXPENSES FOR OUR CAMPUS**

FACILITY, INFRASTRUCTURE, FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, & UTILITIES

**13%**

## **DEBT PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS & INTEREST EXPENSES**

OUTSTANDING BOND DEBT IS AT \$5.9 MILLION

CURRENT TOTAL **\$9.7 MILLION**

AS OF NOVEMBER 25

YEAR END TARGET  
**\$10.8 MILLION**

ORIGINAL GOAL - \$11 MILLION

# NEXT





# A NEW HOME

by **DAVID JAMESON** *Community Engagement Director*

**S**tronghold Cambodia went through a significant change in the last 6 months. Due to skyrocketing rent prices, Stronghold made the strategic decision to move to Kampot, a neighboring province 2 hours away from their old location in Sihanoukville.

As a mission organization, they will hold true to their mission statement, which is “To empower communities for positive change through Christian care and learning”, as they get settled in their new location. Despite the uncertainty and doubt, the move has proven to be a great decision and one that God is favoring! They even received a letter of support from the Kampot Provincial Hall. This is a big deal because the local governments have become increasingly strict toward Non-Governmental Organizations like Stronghold in the last year due to ongoing political stress. It is an amazing step for Stronghold’s future in this community, and God’s favor certainly does not stop there!

The first day of classes came on November 12 and Stronghold had 96 kids enrolled, and 96 kids is their max right now! What a blessing to launch a new ministry in a new area and have a full house on day one. After assessing the needs of the community, Stronghold will start offering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for 3<sup>rd</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> graders with the hope of adding computer classes soon. Learning English is critical for people in Kampot, as English speakers usually get priority for any job openings.

The Stronghold team has been spending extraordinary amounts of time in their new community over the last

2 months to learn the needs of Kampot, as well as what ministry opportunities there are. It turns out there is a significant Muslim population, and the team at Stronghold sees this as an amazing outreach opportunity. Although this outreach will not be easily won, as it seems the Muslim families are apprehensive about sending their kids to a Christian school to learn about Jesus. Phan Narit, aka Jesse, the Executive Director of Stronghold, is up to the challenge and is excited to tell these families about the love and sacrifice of Jesus!

There is still so much to learn about Stronghold’s new location. Kampot is much more rural than Sihanoukville, which is a popular tourist destination. This will likely mean reaching out to a slightly different culture, as well as a different type of poverty level.

Kampot is famous for the pepper that is grown there, and let me tell you, it’s the best pepper I’ve ever tasted! As Stronghold works to grow deep roots in this new destination, there will certainly be many more fascinating discoveries about the richness and “flavor” of Kampot. It is clear that God has specifically called Stronghold to this new location, and I hope that Pathfinder Church, as one of their key mission partners, will continue to be in prayer for the future of this gospel-centered ministry. If you’d like to stay in touch with Stronghold, follow their Facebook page to see amazing videos and hear powerful stories about the kids and the school! There will be more updates in the coming months — stay tuned!





# STJ LEAD SCHOOL

by **SCOTT OSBOURNE** *St. John School Principal*

**E**quipping students in a changing world is a pursuit that St. John School continues to take seriously. As we consider ensuing our mission; the learning spaces, daily instruction and academic practices at STJ School and STJ LEAD continue to transform as we ensure students are developing skills that secure future success.

Our world is changing rapidly and as a result, the competencies students need to be successful is changing. It is for these reasons we have transformed classrooms and practices by launching STJ LEAD School. We believe that along with providing students essential academic knowledge, we must also equip students with skills beyond the presentation of knowledge. Therefore, we are implementing practices that provide students with skills such as collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. Skills that are reported as undeveloped in several of our nations graduates. Additionally, we are also updating programing to provide students with social emotional skills such as self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and social awareness. We recognize students need to develop these skills if they are to be successful in our changing world.

It is exciting that STJ LEAD School is addressing the needs to prepare students for the future. Project Based Learning is being used to help students collaborate and use critical thinking techniques to solve problems. We are designing learning experiences that allow students to apply

knowledge; not simply answer questions on tests. Dr. Tim Elmore recently indicated that the design thinking process helps reinforce skills such as empathy, communication, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and leadership. These are essential skills, which foster student success.

While STJ School continues to uphold many of the features found in LEAD such as flexible environments, the STJ LEAD School is taking these skills and features a step further. In addition to the work exemplified throughout the school, STJ LEAD students are involved in planning their day and moving through curriculum content at an individual pace. As students learn to self-regulate their learning, they are reinforcing the skills of self-awareness, and self-management. They are also engaging in the design thinking process daily to ensure they have opportunity to develop important social emotional and success skills. Students enrolled in STJ LEAD are truly experiencing education in a new way.

STJ remains committed to the core values of Spiritual Development, Academic Excellence, Leadership, and Learning Environment, yet our strategies to accomplish these goals continues to develop. We are excited to launch practices that are best for students. We remain grateful for the opportunity to provide a school that honors each child's unique gifts, while reinforcing success skills that assist in accomplishing our mission to "equip students... to courageously serve Christ in a changing world."





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# Christmas

## Christmas Eve Eve

Sunday, December 23 | 7:00pm

## Family Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 24 | 11:00am

*Gather the family together for this multi-generational kid-friendly Christmas service with a blend of drama and Christmas music and features our Children's Ministry kids.*

## Christmas Eve Celebration

Monday, December 24 | 3:00pm & 5:00pm

## Candlelight & Communion

Monday, December 24 | 11:00pm

*Experience a reflective candlelight service, blending classic and contemporary Christmas elements with Communion.*

## Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25 | 10:00am

*Celebrate the birth of Jesus.*

*Find out more at [stjstl.net/christmas](http://stjstl.net/christmas)*

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