

# EPIS<sup>+</sup>LE



*St. Paul's Lutheran  
The Church On The Hill*

Volume 64 No. 2

February - 2020

## Pastor's Message

*"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you."*

*<Psalm 33:20-22>*

The psalmist writes, "We wait in hope for the Lord." But we are also pulled in another direction from the world in which we live.

Sunday, February 2, 2020 is the 54th Super Bowl and the 50th modern-era National Football League (NFL) championship game. The Kansas City Chiefs have played in the Super Bowl only twice before this Sunday. They lost to the Green Bay Packers in the very first Super Bowl on January 15, 1967 and then won their second time to play 50 years ago against the Minnesota Vikings on January 11, 1970. 50 years is a long time and I'm sure many in our congregation would rewrite the 33<sup>rd</sup> Psalm to say, "We wait in hope for the Chiefs to win!" I'm pretty sure the fans of the San Francisco 49ers are praying their own version of that Psalm.

Hope is a wonderful thing to have in our lives. If we didn't have hope in our life we would be living a dismal existence. When things go in the wrong direction we wouldn't have anything good to look forward to without hope. We would only despair in the belief that the future would be just as bleak as the day of our misfortune.

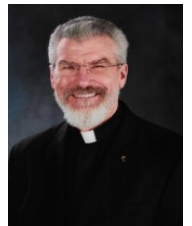
Many people, even long believing Christians have fallen into this well of hopelessness. They have been hurt or disappointed so often it's all they know and they have come to believe it is their lot in life. But that isn't the promise that God gives us and it is through God's love and grace where our true hope is made alive.

No matter how difficult our life might be at the present time we can be sure the ending will be amazing as we will be gathered in God's presence through Christ's work on the cross and resurrection from the tomb. Knowing that our journey will end in such a magnificent joy should give us hope in the future we have left here on earth. Praise be to God.

Before the last two games the KC Chiefs played, I gave a small blessing after our worship and they did win and have gone on to the Super Bowl. Those blessings were free, but this Sunday is special and blessings are at a premium. Let me know how strongly you feel about it.



Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor David



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to you!*

- 1 Jason Plochberger
- 1 Bridget Dalton
- 2 Kevin Pistel
- 2 Curt Stubinger
- 2 Elroy Stubinger
- 3 Morgan Schroeder
- 3 Mark Strobel
- 6 Ryan Ferrell
- 8 Donita Stubinger
- 10 William Gardner
- 11 Wanda Ferrell
- 12 Trevor Collins
- 14 Virginia Linhardt
- 14 Abbie Linsenbardt
- 14 Bob Murphy
- 17 Don Buchta
- 18 Mark Fischer
- 18 Jerry Koestner
- 20 Debby Koestner
- 20 Tyler Soell
- 27 Mark Kalaf
- 29 Gertrude Strobel



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Glen & Donita Stubinger 1973
- 12 Herb & Glenda Hake 2005 **15 Years**
- 14 Pastor David & Donna Viles 1981
- 14 Daniel & Paige Olsen 2020
- 27 Peter & Susan Neenan 2006

*Happy Anniversary*

**Congratulations to Price Tschirgi** for graduating from the University of Missouri-Columbia in December 2019 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Price is now working at the Callaway Nuclear Power Plant for the Ameren Corporation.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Date	Attendance	Offering
January 05	109	\$2,991.07
January 12	64	\$1,,945.11
January 19	92	\$2,841.50
January 26	106	\$1,452.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>\$9,230.28</b>

### In addition to the financial totals:

Sunday school received \$7.11

Initial Envelopes \$165.00

### Special Gifts:

Glenn Gibler \$300.00

Dan Weber \$250.00

Gift of \$5,000.00 given to Renovation Fund by Don Buchta in memory of Roger Buchta and Shari Wolf

**Sympathy** to Paula and Abbie Linsenbardt with the passing of Paula's mother Mava Clements.

### Continued prayers for healing.

Diane Johnson, Gert Strobel, Julie Carel, Vanessa Pyatt, Amy Buechler, Donna Viles, & Chris Russell.

**Special Thank You to Mitchell Plochberger** for replacing the two high front lights and one on the side. These LED lights are motion activated on the front and dusk to dawn on the side. The result is a brighter and safer parking lot, steps and ramp for people entering our church at night and it is a great security measure for our property.



**Also thanks to all who shoveled and bladed snow on the church parking lot during the recent snow storms.**

## Ask the Pastor

**Question:** Why do we celebrate Ash Wednesday and when did that tradition start?

**Answer:**

*"When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee...From that time on Jesus began to preach, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."**" <Matthew 4:12, 17>*

Jesus speaks of repentance often just as John the Baptist did before him to make way for the Lord. This is a foundation of turning away from the world and turning toward God. We know that nothing we can do on our own can make us holy or give us salvation. Christ on the Cross and Risen did that for us. But that doesn't mean we can sin boldly as the Apostle Paul said. Jesus commands us to repent of our sins and that is something we should do daily and together on Sunday morning together.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent for the Church and brings our focus on this repentance and prayer through personal and communal confession.

Ash Wednesday is a 40 day season that always begins 46 days before Easter Sunday. During those 46 days there are 6 Sundays which are not counted as days of Lent. Every Sunday is a mini-Easter. This is why Lent is counted as 40 days and those days reflect the time Jesus spent in the wilderness after his Baptism by John. Jesus fasted during this time and was tempted by Satan. Likewise this is a time for us to do without and focus on Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection.



During our worship service of Ash Wednesday, which will be February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., those who wish will come forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their forehead or hand. When the ashen cross is given you will hear these or similar words, **"From dust you came and from dust you will return."** These ashes symbolize two main things: death and repentance. "Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust as we read in <Genesis 2:7>, and when a human body decomposes, it returns to dust or ash." When you come forward to receive this sign you are committing and act of repentance for the sins you have done and you are dedicating the following 40 days to restore your hearts of holiness and seek to do God's will and prepare yourself for the celebration of Easter Sunday. These days are a solemn time of prayer and reflection to focus our attention on the life we lead and the life God would have us lead.

Some church traditions require the abstinence of certain foods and drinks or fasting all day and having only one meal in the evening. This is to remind us of Jesus 40 day fast in the wilderness and also to focus our attention on giving up the temptations of the world and receiving the gifts of God.

While I think this is a wonderful tradition I recommend you give up a favorite food, drink, special event, or anything you enjoy for the 40 days and replace it with an act of kindness or giving each day of the season. This will help you focus on giving up the temptations of life and lead you to do God's will.

The history of Ash Wednesday's beginning is not exactly known, but it is believed that it was started in the early church during the time of Jesus' Apostles. But we know that the worship was formalized at the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. Most scholars believe by the end of the fourth century the forty-day period of Lent was a standard period of the worship season that included fasting and prayer as part of its primary means of repentance and preparation for the holy day of Easter.

Since the date of Ash Wednesday is dependent on the day of Easter, how is Easter calculated? Easter falls on the first Sunday after the Full Moon that falls on or after the northern hemisphere spring ('vernal') equinox (the paschal full moon). If the Full Moon is on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor David

**Congregational Council Meeting, January 13, 2020**  
Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, Church Council Secretary

A regular Congregational Council meeting was called to order at 6:36pm, on Monday, January 13, 2020 by Council President Zola Finch. Present were council members Zola Finch, Laurie Koestner, Delores Vlach, Mitch Plochberger, Kathy Meller and Becky Weber. Absent were Dan Tschirgi and Paula Linsenhardt . Also present were Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe and Pastor David Viles.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Viles, followed by a devotion from Jeremiah, chapter 29. Pastor talked about where do we go from here, as we enter into a new year. He explained it is not our plans, but instead we are led by God's Spirit to implement the plans God has for us and our congregation.

President Finch called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2019 Council Meeting. A motion to approve the December 2019 minutes was offered by Delores Vlach, seconded by Mitch Plochberger, and passed via voice vote.

President Finch called upon Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe, to present a review of the past month's expenses and incomes. A two-page review was presented and accepted. The proposed 2020 annual budget was also reviewed. A motion to accept the past month's expenses and incomes was offered by Mitch Plochberger, seconded by Kathy Meller, and passed via voice vote.

President Finch asked Pastor David Viles for the December 2019 mileage and activity report. Pastor requests that he be allowed to donate his December mileage due to its small amount, council accepted his request.

Pastor reported attendance at several meetings, to include Food Bank at Trinity in Russellville, Church Council, Worship and Music, Mutual Ministry and Lohman City Council. He held Weekly Adult Forums, Weekly Confirmation Classes, and Weekly Bible Study Classes. Pastor also assisted church members with computer files. He participated in Children's Christmas Play, created, emailed and mailed the Epistle for December. He had 3 home visits, 3 office visits, and various conversations. Pastor reports services for December as follows: 7 services at St Paul's. Sunday: 2 communion and 3 non-communion services. Christmas Eve-1 Communion, 2 Home Communion.

President Finch called for the Standing Committee Reports which are included below.

**Old Business:**

Pastor David reports LifeTouch company will mail church directories on January 17, 2020, and the online digital version will be sent within two weeks of that date. After discussion, an offering basket will be placed in the back of church for two Sundays in March for Cole R 1 Russellville's Project Graduation. President Finch presented council members with a map noting a portion of property belonging to our church that crosses over Route D and into part of the front yard of Gert Strobel. After discussion, it was decided we recommend to our congregation that we gift this parcel of land to her. This will be presented to our congregation during the annual meeting.

**New Business:**

David Finch presented recommendations proposed by the Safety and Security committee regarding the 2020 Active Assailant Plan. The recommendations include three areas, in tandem:

- \*Address our church perimeter with lights, cameras and improvements to doors.
- \*Develop new practices during Sunday worship and other gatherings including the locking of secondary doors and monitoring the front doors and parking lot.
- \*Implement a posted "no-firearms" policy for the church except for authorized members of the security team approved by the Pastor in accordance with state law, and who will be required to pass extensive education training. After much discussion, a motion was made to accept the 2020 Active Assailant plan by Becky Weber, seconded by Mitch Plochberger and passed via voice vote.



President Finch commended David Finch and his committee for the time and work involved with this plan, noting that while it is very difficult to acknowledge, our changing times dictate what changes must be put forth to improve our safety here at St. Paul's, these changes must occur and we should all feel much safer with the plan implementation.

After discussion, council decided to implement Time and Talent sheets every other year.

Pastor David listed the following people for consideration as new members to our church family: Beverly Boehm, Roger and Nancy Thompson, Kent and Julie Nelson, and Ashley Heidbreder. A motion to accept these aforementioned people as members to our church was offered by Mitch Plochberger, seconded by Laurie Koestner, and passed via voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pastor David, seconded by Mitch Plochberger, and passed via voice vote.

Council was adjourned at 8:55pm. The Lord's Prayer was recited by all.

Addendum by Pastor David: I noted that Becky Weber be commended for her visitations and care of Gert Strobel each week. Becky's ministry is especially noteworthy in her attention to devotions she provides during these visits. Thank you, Becky, for the blessings you provide.

**Evangelism:** Delores Vlach

Delores and her committee wishes to thank everyone who brought a wonderful selection of cookies, breads and bars to the January fellowship hour. She reported the sign-up sheet for hosting the monthly fellowship hour for 2020 is posted on the narthex bulletin board. Delores reports the committee is considering a menu change for the pancake breakfast set for March, 2020.

**Technology:** Dan Tschirgi

Pastor David reports in Dan's absence that Technology is going well. He adds the speakers in the Friendship hall are all working but one, which is being addressed.

**Worship & Music:** Kathy Meller

Kathy reports the Advent Dinner was attended by 73 members and friends, with a free will offering collected of \$227.00, used to cover cost of the dinner and decorations. She reports that after the positives and negatives pertaining to the changes we made in 2019, the committee decided to keep the changes in place for 2020 unless some unforeseen circumstance arises. The Children's Christmas program will be the Sunday before Christmas and the Christmas Eve service will be at 6:30pm. Real candles will be used at the conclusion of the service with possibility of having battery operated candles for children. 149 people attended the Children's program and 161 attended Christmas Eve service.

Since Gert Strobel is still recovering and unable to play the organ. Zola Finch and Kathy Meller will continue to fill in as needed.

Pastor David ordered 10 baptismal candles and will check into purchasing handkerchiefs to be used for future baptisms since supplies were depleted. The choir will continue to sing anthems each Sunday. Music will continue to be played during communion in place of singing. The Hymn of the month for February will be #715 Christ, Be Our Light. We will welcome new members to our church on February 23, with cake and punch provided by the committee following church. Ash Wednesday service will be February 26 at 7:00pm. Mid-week Lenten services will be held on March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 downstairs in the Friendship Hall. It was recommended the piano be tuned before these services occur.

**Parish Education:** Laurie Koestner

Laurie reports that all of the comments she received regarding the Children's Christmas program being held the Sunday before Christmas Eve were positive, adding the children seemed happier, more alert and better rested. Plans are being considered to ask adults to tell stories to the Sunday School students that pertain to the Gospel for that Sunday, and incorporating crafts that also go along with that week's Gospel. Monthly Youth Gatherings will start up again this month.

**Church Improvement:** Mitchell Plochberger

Mitch reports the following: The lectern receptacle replaced, receptacle outside removed, removed a couple of trees on the hill to ease mowing, and there is an upstairs window leaking that will be fixed. There was discussion on the new kitchen remodel project, and President Finch reports a meeting with a contractor to be held tomorrow, January 14, 2020. Pastor reports the cost of snow removal up our church hill is covered by the city of Lohman.

**Stewardship:** Paula Linsenbardt

In Paula's absence, Pastor David reports on a form change that pertains to the review of congregational records.

**Mutual Ministry:** Vacant (Pastor David Viles)

Pastor reports we are still very much in need of a chairperson for this group. The committee will review and revise the Church Handbook, as last revision was in 2011. (NOTE: As of the Annual Congregational meeting Scott Soell has joined the Church Council as Mutual Ministry Chair and Jana Thompson has joined as a member.)

**Fruendschaft Gruppe:** Jeannette Fischer, Chair

On Wednesday, January 8, 19 members gathered to take down the Christmas Tree and all decorations and store everything away for another year. Our work load was made much lighter by Les and Kathryn who removed all the outdoor decorations several days earlier. Major thanks to them for doing so. We then enjoyed a delicious wine, cheese and soup supper. Thanks to all who furnished pots of soup and all the rest. Looking ahead: Our gruppe will journey to Arrow Rock on Saturday, July 25 to see Sister Act at 2 PM. The group rate is \$34 each. Reservations and payment are due by June 14. If you would like to join us, please let me know by that date. Following the play, we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. More information will soon be available about that. Our next regular meeting will be Monday, February 10 at 5:30. Please make reservations by Sunday evening, February 9, if you plan to attend. Thanks.

**Mobile Food Pantry:** Audrey Bunch

The January 14th Mobile Truck Food Pantry was held at the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot with mild weather and sunshine for the first hour, then the clouds and temperature came for the remaining serving time. We served 100 families with 326 people in those families. Some of the items given out: honey dew, onions, potatoes, boxes of cereal, cabbage, sweet potatoes, gallons of tea, frozen cooked shrimp, cauliflower rice with cheese, and eggs. Thanks to all the volunteers that came out to help our community service project. Gary and Alberta Zumwalt from the Lohman Lions Club, Pastor David Viles, Becky Weber, Rosemary Heidebreder, Dan Tschirgi, Kambry Pistel, and Audrey Bunch from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Next Mobile Food Truck will be February 11th at 1:15 P.M.

**Jr. Lutherans:** Donita Stubinger

On December 15, 2019 I was presented with several gift certificates to some of my favorite places. Much to my surprise I was left speechless and didn't know what to say or do when I was called up in front of the church. With sincere appreciation I want to thank all who participated in this surprise gesture. It was a pleasure getting meals ready for the confirmands to enjoy with their families. Thanks again for all your thoughtfulness.

On January 8, 2020 the Mitten Christmas Tree was taken down. The envelopes were filled with \$353.00 plus \$250.00 on a Thrivent gift card totaling \$593.00. Four sets of socks, eight hats and three sets of gloves surrounded the Mitten Tree. All these treasured gifts were given to Christie Murphy, school nurse at Cole R-1 Russellville to use as she needs to buy shoes and supplies as needed for students at her office as she desires.

Jr. Lutherans met on Sunday, January 26, 2020 in the church basement and enjoyed the art of making and baking pies. Each one was allowed and taught how to roll out a pie, put it in the pie pan, fill with a filling of pumpkin, apple, peach or blueberry. The pies were then baked in the church oven while the children enjoyed a movie with the Sunday school class. When done, all pies were enjoyed along with lasagna, salad, rolls and drinks. Families were invited to join us as soon as they finished the annual meeting upstairs.



Our next Jr. Lutheran meeting will be on Sunday, February 16, 2020 at church where we will be painting crosses on charger plates to be given to our friends at the Primrose Nursing Home. We will be painting first, let our project dry while we enjoy lunch then we will carpool to the retirement home. Please fill free to join us, everyone is welcome.

**Inspiring Health Living:** Happy Heart, Happy Health event. Our Heart Month edition of inspiring healthy living will include exercises and heart healthy snacks and recipes. We'll also be watching a short video on cardiovascular disease. Please let Rania or Amber know if you can join us on February 23rd at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

**Safety and Security:** Rich Prosch

The St. Paul's Safety and Security Committee met on Friday, January 10 to review our response plan for active assailants and discuss best practices for our congregation in light of societal church violence. Keeping the pastor and congregation of St. Paul's safe—whether during worship service, Sunday school, special events, or during the day to day maintenance of the church—is and always has been the goal of the committee. Our 2020 plan for active assailants was discussed as a layered approach, first securing the perimeter of the church through additional lighting, implementing outdoor cameras, and improvements to our entranceways. Inside the church, a security team made up of members of the committee would assume additional responsibilities, including scheduled observation of the doors and



grounds, monitoring camera feeds, and communicating with members. Just as with our ongoing weather plan, the security team would also offer response drills for the congregation and train together. After being led through a review of the Texas church shooting by David Finch, the committee entered into a thorough discussion about firearms in church. Topics included specific legal issues, church and individual liability, readiness preparation and training, and the development of an overall firearms policy for our members.

At the conclusion of the meeting, motion was made by Finch to initiate a 2020 Active Assailant Plan in three areas, in tandem:

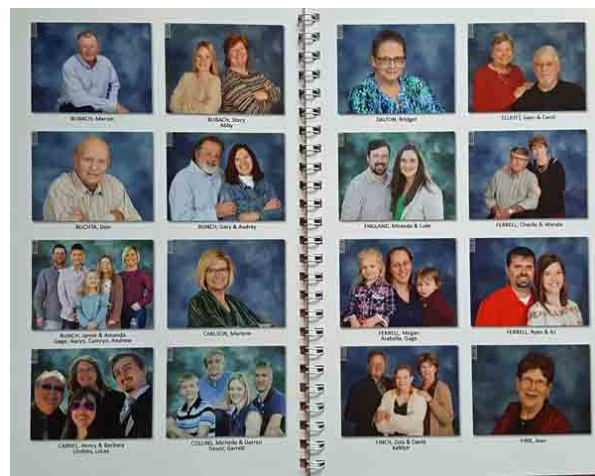
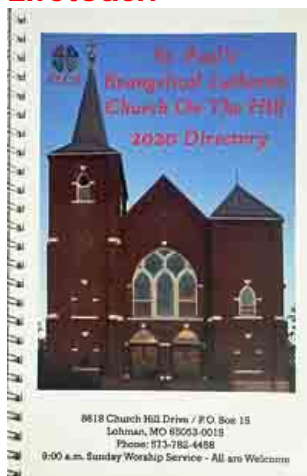
- Address our church perimeter with lights, cameras and improvements to doors.
- Develop new practices during Sunday worship and other gatherings including the locking of secondary doors and monitoring the front doors and parking lot.
- Implement a posted “no-firearms” policy for the church except for authorized members of the security team approved by the Pastor in accordance with state law, and who will be required to pass extensive education and training sessions.

Motion was seconded by Koestner and voted on unanimously by the committee.

The Security and Safety Committee officially submitted the recommendation to the Church Council, and it was adopted at their January 13th meeting.

--Submitted by Rich Prosch, co-chair St. Paul's Safety and Security Committee

## Lifetouch



We received our Photo Directories on January 25, 2020 and they were distributed on Sunday, January 26 after worship service. There is also a Directory App that can be accessed on your phone, tablet or computer. If you are a member of St. Paul's Church and would like access to this App please contact Pastor David by email for the URL and Passcode.

## Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Margaret Circle is ready for a new year of gatherings and we welcome all women of the church to participate! We meet every other month, beginning with February, sometimes at St. Paul's and other times in homes. Our goals are to learn about God's great love for God's children, both locally and throughout the world, and to contribute to organizations whose purpose is to bring God's love to those in need. Study of God's holy word is central to our gatherings and again this year, Inge Gauck will lead us in Bible study. Last but not least, at each meeting we enjoy refreshments lovingly prepared by the evening's hostess. So mark your calendar for February 4, which is right around the corner, and come to the church at 6:30 PM. Donita Stubinger, hostess for February, will greet us with delectable treats. We welcome guests and/or new members and hope to see you on February 4th! Please contact Erika Gerth at (573) 635-6681 or by email, [erikagerth@embarqmail.com](mailto:erikagerth@embarqmail.com) for more information.

## Quilt Tacking Day: Jeannette Fisher

Mark your calendar to attend the quilt tacking day on February 12, 2020. Soup will be available and if you can bring a dish to share that would be awesome.



**S.T.A.R.S. [Seniors, tired and retired saints]**

Stars will meet Wednesday, February 5 with lunch served at 11:30. Jeannette Fischer will present a short program with slides (assisted by Pastor Viles) concerning our contribution to the 250th Anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Utica located in Thurmont, Maryland. Churches from Maine to Hawaii were invited to submit quilt blocks for their anniversary quilt and St. Paul's from Lohman, MO was chosen from the state of Missouri. We recently received our copy of their book complete with pictures and stories from across the USA. We will have a Soup Luncheon. Please bring side dishes to compliment the soup, (sandwiches, relishes, salads) and, of course, desserts. Call Rose Strobel (782-4553) by Monday evening February 3<sup>rd</sup> to make reservations and what dish you'll be bringing.

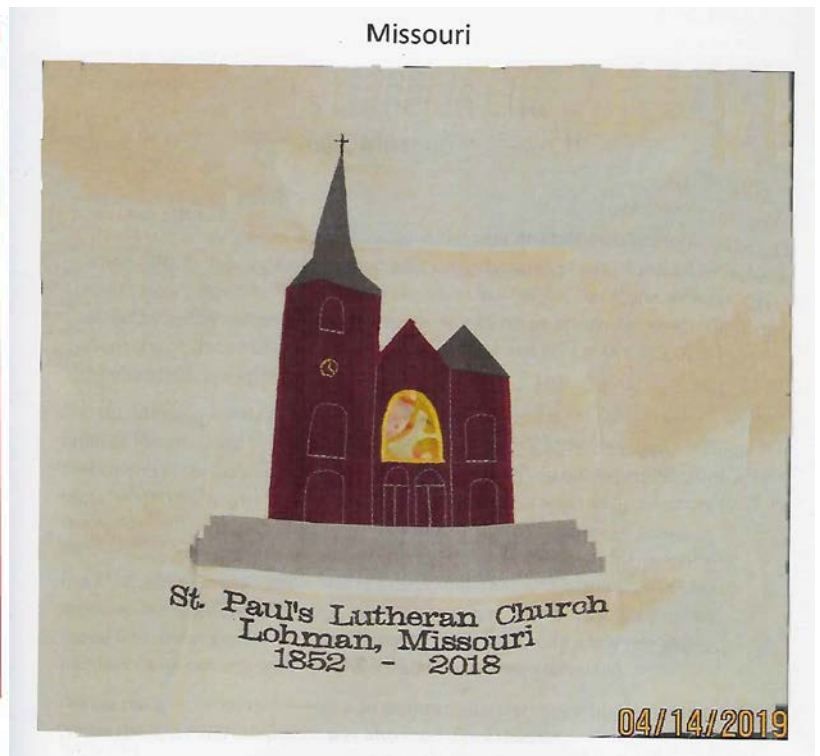
**Cover of Book**



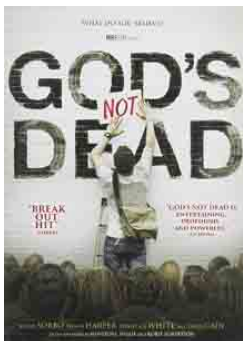
*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of Utica, MD  
250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1769 - 2019*



**St. Paul's contribution**



**Friday Family Fun Movie Night:**



Friday Family Fun Movie Nights are scheduled for the first Friday of every month. Set up starts at 6:30 with snacks and fellowship then the movie starts at 7. The movie for December was "The Christmas Project", showing the true gift of the Christmas spirit. Our movie for Friday, February 7th will be "God's Not Dead" Come out and enjoy some time and fellowship with us. There is always snacks and if you wish to bring some you may or just come as you are and enjoy what is available.

**St. Paul's 2020 Schedule  
Read Through the Bible**

Date	Day	Daily Reading
Feb-1	Saturday	I Peter 1-2
Feb-2	<b>Sunday</b>	I Peter 3-5
Feb-3	Monday	II Peter 1-3
Feb-4	Tuesday	I John 1-2
Feb-5	Wednesday	I John 3
Feb-6	Thursday	I John 4 & 5
Feb-7	Friday	II John, III John
Feb-8	Saturday	Jude
Feb-9	<b>Sunday</b>	Revelation 1
Feb-10	Monday	Revelation 2
Feb-11	Tuesday	Revelation 3-4
Feb-12	Wednesday	Revelation 5-6
Feb-13	Thursday	Revelation 7-8
Feb-14	Friday	Revelation 9-10
Feb-15	Saturday	Revelation 11-12
Feb-16	<b>Sunday</b>	Revelation 13-14
Feb-17	Monday	Revelation 15-16
Feb-18	Tuesday	Revelation 17
Feb-19	Wednesday	Revelation 18
Feb-20	Thursday	Revelation 19
Feb-21	Friday	Revelation 20-21
Feb-22	<b>Saturday</b>	Revelation 22

## Reading Through the Bible

← [New Schedule for the Month.](#)

**Some of what we have learned the past 4 weeks.**

Last month we began reading the epistles (letters) written by the Apostle Paul. We finished Romans and began reading letters he wrote to the churches he set up in other nations.

**1st and 2nd Corinthians.** He wrote to correct some errors the church was experiencing at the time. There was a lot of division because different groups were claiming to be followers of certain Apostles: Paul, Apollos, Cephas and Christ.

He says only Christ was crucified for them, not the Apostles. They should be united in Christ alone. There were other matters of treating each other poorly and sinning in various ways, mostly against each other. The second letter to Corinth gives instruction for the church and it is the one book that gives a lot of information about Paul himself including the famous 'thorn in his side.'

**Galatians** was written to the church of Galatia. They had begun to teach Gentiles they had to follow Jewish laws. Paul points out there is only one law and it is found in the love of God for his children. He tells them about the fruit of the Spirit which is: "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

**Ephesians** concerns the bond all people have in Christ Jesus. All people are blessed by God's grace for their salvation and all should stand together as one against the evils of the world. This is where we find the passage saying to, "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

**Philippians**, unlike the other letters, Paul does not write to address a crisis or complaint. He writes to express his appreciation and affection for the people. This is the letter where we find the much loved verse of encouragement, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

**Colossians** was infected by Greek philosophers who were trying to mix their philosophy with Christian theology. They taught that the physical world was evil and Jesus was a spirit and not a man. Paul writes to establish the omnipotence of God's Son and to correct this false teaching.

**Thessalonians 1 & 2**, Paul writes in fear the church is not doing well but gets a report from Timothy who says they are hanging in there. Paul instructs them to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Great advice for us all.

**Timothy 1 & 2**, Paul writes to instruct young Timothy on how to be a good Pastor for the church.

**Titus** was another young pastor who Paul instructs in the same way as he did Timothy.

**Philemon** is a slave owner who Paul writes while sending back one of his slaves. Paul says to treat him not as a slave but as a brother who will be of much value to him working in that capacity.

**Hebrews** was written to show Jesus' role as intercessor between us and the Father. His is the path of salvation.

**James**, The apostle James speaks about doing good works and also the threat of the words spoken unwisely.

Blessings, Pastor David

St. Paul's Calendar February 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<a href="#">Calendar Online Link</a>						
						1
2 9 am Worship Fellowship Hour 4pm Bible Reading Group	3	4 9 AM Worship & Music Meeting 6:30 pm Margaret Circle	5 Bulletin Printed 11:30 am S.T.A.R.S Dinner	6	7 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Movie Night "God's Not Dead"	8
9 9 am Worship Communion 4pm Bible Reading Group	10 5:30 pm Fruendschaft Gruppe 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	11 1:15 pm Food Pantry	12 Bulletin Printed 8:30 am Quilt Tacking Day	13	14 Pastor's Day Off Valentine's Day	15
16 9 am Worship Jr. Lutheran 4pm Bible Reading Group	17 Epistle Deadline President's Day	18	19 Bulletin Printed 6:00 pm Mutual Ministry Meeting	20	21 Pastor's Day Off	22
23 9 am Worship Communion New member reception 1:30 pm Inspiring Health Living 4pm Bible Reading Group	24	25	26 Bulletin Printed 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Communion	27	28 Pastor's Day Off	29

**Date**

**Ushers**

February 02 Kathy Meller | Laurie Koestner  
 February 09 Paula Linsenbardt | Kathy Meller  
 February 16 Mitchell Plochberger | Scott Soell  
 February 23 Delores Vlach | Dan Tschirgi  
 February 26 TBA | TBA

**Acolytes | Communion – Youth – Adult**

J.D. Muphry  
 Kylee Scheperle | Landon Plochberger | Audrey Bunch  
 Lexie Plochberger  
 Mandy Miller | Charlie Miller | Erika Gerth  
 Meredith Benne | Jahanna Koestner | Trish Russell

**Date**

**Greeters**

February 02 Stacy Bubach | Abby Bubach  
 February 09 Don Buchta | Audrey Bunch  
 February 16 Gary Elliott | Richard Heidbreder  
 February 23 Laurie Koestner | Jerry Koestner  
 February 26 TBA | TBA

**Readers**

Jerry Koestner  
 Jana Thompson  
 Carol Elliott  
 Frank Pascoe  
 Donald Weber

**Communionware For Month**

Donald and Becky Weber

**Flower Chairperson For Month**

Audrey Bunch

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church – 8618 Church Hill Drive – Lohman, Missouri 65053**  
 10:15 a.m.: Sunday School & Adult Forum      11:30 a.m.: Confirmation Class  
 Prayer Chain: Michelle Collins email: [michelle.collins4@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.collins4@gmail.com) 573-230-9574  
 Pastor David Viles email: [davidviles@cox.net](mailto:davidviles@cox.net) – Cell: 479-670-2000 – Church: 573-782-4458