

# EPIS<sup>+</sup>LE



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

Volume 64 No. 1

January - 2020

## Pastor's Message

*"One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." <Philippians 3:13b-14>*

The year 2020 is here. HAPPY NEW YEAR~! Now what?

Have you made a New Year's Resolution? I've made two of them.

1. *Get back the lean and trim body I had before the accident.*
2. *Stop calling 'getting fat' the 'accident'.*

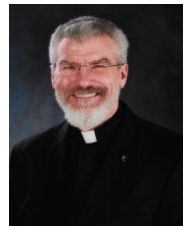
It's easy to beat ourselves up over poor choices and mistakes we have made in the past. But often it is a little more difficult to make the changes necessary to live a happier and better life. My brother-in-law and I were talking about exercising a few years ago and I mentioned how hard it was for me to get motivated to actually do it since it was hard work. Tom told me, "that was just an excuse, the hardest part of exercising is putting on your tennis shoes." That was a very profound statement and very much true. Once you start something, it becomes easier to do. It's the starting that is difficult but after you are past that initial point the rest comes much more easily.

Our spiritual life can be the same. It is always easy to fall to the devil's temptation to stay in bed on Sunday morning and not go to church. Or to take the kids out to eat or back home immediately after the service instead of having them spend an hour in Sunday school because then you have to wait around or have to come back to get them.

But those are just excuses, the hardest part is getting dressed and in the car to leave and go to church. Once you get past that part the rest is easy and rewarding and joyful. I have NEVER heard anyone tell me they wished they had not come to church. But I've heard many say how thankful they were to worship with everyone else, to hear the sermon and to commune at the Lord's Table. The same goes for the children attending Sunday school. They always have a good time interacting with the other kids while learning about God. The only complaints I've heard come for Confirmation students, but that's another story.

As we begin this New Year, let us *'Forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead, press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.'*

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor David



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to you!*

- 2 Rania Scheperle
- 6 Misty Schroeder
- 9 Marshall Griffin
- 10 Jenetia Gibler
- 10 Colin Walters
- 11 Lucas Carrel
- 16 Sherrie Hanks
- 20 David Russell
- 21 Kathy Meller
- 30 Kaitlyn Finch



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Kendall & Hope Stubinger 2006

*Happy Anniversary*



Congratulations to Lottie Noland Tierney, daughter of Conor and Angela Tierney, baptized on December 29, 2019. Also present was her big sister Rory. Lottie was wearing the baptismal gown her great-great-grandfather wore when he was baptized 114 years ago.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Date	Attendance	Offering
December 01	125	\$3,575.00
December 08	96	\$1,986.72
December 15	95	\$4,241.25
December 22	149	\$4,312.25
Christmas Eve	161	* See Below
December 29	112	\$8,087.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>\$22,202.72</b>

### In addition to the financial totals:

Sunday school received \$5.00

Christmas Treats \$205.00

Living Lutheran Subscription \$106.50

Thanksgiving Day for Rape & Abuse \$587.50

\* Christmas Eve \$656.00 – (\$218.67 for Oaks Indian Center, \$218.67 for Habitat for Humanity, and \$218.67 for Samaritan Center.)

Christmas Day Envelope \$532.00 Heisinger Bluffs Benevolence Fund.

### Special Gifts:

Richard & Rosemary Heidbreder \$5,325.00

Glenda Kappelmann & Rick Clawson \$250.00

Leon and Carol Beck \$200.00

Richard & Ryan Heidbreder \$5,000.00

### Special Christmas Greetings from:

Glenda Kappelmann & Howard Hahn

### Continued prayers for healing.

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

### Baptism Blessings – Praise God



## Ask the Pastor

**Question:** Pastor here is a question I would like for you to comment on: Acts 16:9 During the night Paul had a vision. I wonder if God still sends visions to us, or how about speaking to us in a dream as we read in other scriptures. What if we think God sent us a vision or a message in our dreams? How do we respond? What if we shared that information with our friends? I fear they might roll their eyes and ask, "What have you been smokin'?"

**Answer:** *Great question. Our 'Reading through the Bible' group read the book of Acts during December and this is what we read in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."*

When you consider science has dated the earth to be four and a half billion years old, the past 2000 years is just a drop in the bucket. 2000 years is how long ago Jesus walked with us on this earth then was crucified and resurrected. It was during that time we read the scripture noted above, "In the last days..." I believe we are in the last days, and 2000 years is just a speck of time since God created the heavens and the earth. The last days may end tomorrow, or another 2000 years from now. We don't know and while Jesus was with us he said he didn't know when the end would happen.

After Jesus ascended into heaven he came again on Pentecost and filled the Apostles with the Holy Spirit and they prophesied. The Holy Spirit was also given to each of us and if we listen we will be guided by the Spirit to do the will of God and to do what is right or righteous.

I can only testify what has happened in my lifetime and many of you know most of my story of how I became a Pastor. I've told you that my experience was a constant insistence I felt from God to leave my worldly career behind and go to Seminary and follow him.

But it was more than a feeling, it had to be for me to make the transformative change. Science tells us that everyone dreams every night for as much as two hours or more. But like many people I almost never remember my dreams. But when I do, they are usually disturbing or in some way profound.

During the three years I argued with God about giving up my secular career and dedicating my life to serving him, I had dreams or visions that led me to follow the path God chose for me. These were not dreams or visions of great magnitude and triumphant revelation. The dreams were subtle, and quiet ones of reassurance and encouragement. They were dreams of another life, visions of a life following God instead of the call of the world. These dreams showed me the possibilities of a path filled with peace, comfort and love as opposed to working myself to death to gain more of the world's treasure.

I have awakened in the middle of the night having heard someone calling my name, sometimes from family members who are alive in heaven. I don't know what to do with that other than to take comfort in knowing they are indeed alive and we will meet again.

I have had premonitions (visions) of something to come and been careful to consider and regard its meaning.

I believe many of you have had these dreams or visions but maybe considered it odd or of no importance. But what if you really contemplated what it might mean, and who sent it to you? Will people roll their eyes and wonder "What have you been smokin'?" perhaps, but that's okay, the dream or vision wasn't meant for them, it was meant for you.

I believe God speaks to us all the time through dreams, visions, thoughts in our minds and feelings in our hearts. How do we respond? Stop and listen and see what God is up to. You might be surprised.

How do you know if it is from God? Ask yourself: Is it good? Is it about love?

Luke 18:19b Jesus said, "No one is good--except God alone." 1 John 4:8b "God is love."

Blessings to you, your families and all of God's beloved children.  
Pastor David

**Congregational Council Meeting, December 9, 2019**  
Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, Church Council Secretary

A regular Congregational Council meeting was called to order at 6:40pm, on Monday, December 9, 2019 by Dan Tschirgi (Vice-President) in President Zola Finch's absence. Present were council members Laurie Koestner, Delores Vlach, Dan Tschirgi, Paula Linsenbardt, Mitch Plochberger and Becky Weber. Absent were President Zola Finch and Kathy Meller. 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 Revelation 22:12 "Look, I am coming! My reward is with me and I will give to each person according to what they have done." This season of Advent is a time we keep hearing about Jesus coming again. We are told to be patient but expectant, to be watchful but not allow the long wait to cause us to fall asleep and miss it. We are told to be awake, watching, and ready. But there is another aspect to Christ's return; what happens next? I think that most of us believe we will witness that glorious moment when the sky parts and we see that light of Christ shining down on us as he appears on the clouds. Then in the next moment we will be called up to be with him and with any loved ones who have gone before us. I believe that will happen, but what happens next? Verse 12 tells us, or warns us, "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done." What have we done? The Prophet Isaiah quotes God saying, "These people honor with their lips, but their heart is far from me." How should we be rewarded? Is our heart near or far? What have we done?

Dan Tschirgi called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2019 Council Meeting. A motion to approve the November 2019 minutes was offered by Mitch Plochberger, seconded by Dan Tschirgi, and passed via voice vote.

Dan Tschirgi 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.

Dan Tschirgi then asked Pastor Viles for the November 2019 mileage and activity report. Pastor's November mileage totaled 71 miles. A motion to approve the mileage was made by Mitch Plochberger, seconded by Paula Linsenbardt, and passed via voice vote. The amount is \$41.18

Pastor reported attendance at several meetings, to include Food Bank at Trinity in Russellville, Church Council, Weekly Adult Forums, Weekly Confirmation Classes, and Weekly Bible Study Classes. He also met with Quimby Organ tuners, ordered Sunday School material with Laurie Koestner, created Ingathering Service with Erika Gerth for WELCA to do in his absence, welcomed back Branson Tour Bus upon their return, helped Eugene Strobel install an above stove microwave in Gert Strobel's home, performed Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving Eve, edited the children's' Christmas Play for December 22, 2019, created and then emailed and mailed the Epistle for November. He took a one-week vacation to perform a wedding in Arkansas and visited family.

Pastor performed two communion and two non-communion services. He made two hospital visits, two home visits, and participated in various office conversations.

**Vice President Dan Tschirgi then called for the Standing Committee Reports which are included below.**

**Old Business:**

Pastor David reports LifeTouch will send a draft of the new Church Directory for any corrections. He also reports we will take up collection for Cole R1 Project Graduation after the first of the year. Pastor David reminded everyone Annual Reports are due December 15, 2019.



**New Business:** It was noted that notice of the **Annual Meeting set for January 26, 2020** is to be published in the bulletin two weeks prior to the event. Dan Tschirgi reported on the recommendation from the Safety and Security committee to purchase an artificial Christmas Tree to replace the traditional cedar tree due to possible fire hazard. It was also recommended to not use real candles for the Christmas Eve service. After discussion, a motion was made by Laurie Koestner, and seconded by Dan Tschirgi to purchase an artificial tree, and retain the traditional lighted candles for Christmas Eve service, with children being given glow sticks for children to use. This motion was passed via voice vote. Dan Tschirgi then presented council with a map noting a portion of properties belonging to our church crosses over route D and into part of the front yard of Gertrude Strobel and a neighbor adjacent to her. Gertrude has asked if this can be considered for correction. After discussion, a motion was made by Laurie Koestner to present to our congregation that we consider gifting these properties to Gertrude Strobel and her neighbor with stipulation the assigned property owners pay all costs associated with this transfer to include but not limited to surveying, closing and tax costs, motion was seconded by Becky Weber, and passed via voice vote. This will be presented to our congregation during the annual meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Dan Tschirgi, seconded by Mitch Plochberger, and passed via voice vote. Council was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The Lord's Prayer was recited by all. Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, Church Council Secretary

**Evangelism:** Delores Vlach

Delores reported there will be a Fellowship Hour following Church Service/Christmas program on December 22, 2019. Laurie Koestner reports snacks will be provided by our Sunday School students in celebration of a birthday party for Jesus.

Laurie Koestner reports our church did not participate in Living Windows held on December 6, 2019, in downtown Jefferson City, MO.

**Technology:** Dan Tschirgi

Dan reports the speakers in the fellowship are hooked up, but noted all but one are working and he will work on this.

**Worship & Music:** Kathy Meller

Dan Tschirgi presented report provided by Kathy Meller in her absence. Her report noted the attendance at the Thanksgiving Eve was 40, much the same as it has been in past and it is the opinion of The Worship and Music committee to continue in this manner. They enjoyed the style of the service and singing traditional Thanksgiving hymns. The choir will continue to provide an anthem pertaining to the designated Psalm on the first Sunday of each month. It was suggested that the text of the anthem be printed in the bulletin. In Gertrude Strobel's absence, Zola Finch and Kathy Meller will continue to play the organ/keyboard. The Advent Dinner was held December 8. Delores Vlach noted that it was well attended and there were also eight non-members in attendance. There will be no hymn of the month in January. Paula Linsenhardt noted it has been observed some of the acolyte robes are in need of cleaning and repair, and Dan Tschirgi noted he will contact Kathy Meller about this.

**Parish Education:** Laurie Koestner

Laurie reports an average of six to nine Sunday School students in attendance, with two attending high school class. New Sunday School material has been ordered. Youth Ministry recently met and enjoyed their time together playing cards. Laurie reports she is waiting to hear back from her Salvation Army Bell Ringers application she sent in for our High School students to ring bells locally.

**Church Improvement:** Mitchell Plochberger

Mitch reports they held an initial meeting with contractor Aaron Bax regarding Kitchen Renovation project. Delores Vlach noted the need to improve visibility outside when it is dark. There was discussion on improving outside lighting both in front and on the side of the church.

**Stewardship:** (Paula Linsenbardt) Paula presented a draft of the 2020 Budget for discussion.

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

Pastor reports all staff evaluations are done, and there are plans to update the Church Handbook. He is in hopes someone will chair Mutual Ministry in 2020.

**So many thanks are due our special families at St. Paul's for ALL their work using their God-given talents this Christmas season.**

**To:** Kathryn and Les for getting, setting up and watering the 35 beautiful poinsettias that were donated and graced our church sanctuary;

**To:** Leroy and his crew for erecting the nativity scene on the church hill;

**To:** Gus and his huge crew for placing the beautiful luminaries that graced our church hill drive up to church and Richard for lighting them;

**To:** Freundschaft Gruppe for decorating the sanctuary and the 12 ft. Christmas Tree;

**To:** The Brass Band consisting of Donald Weber, Dan Tschirgi, Lexie Plochberger, Jahanna Koestner and Keyboardist Kathy Meller who played Christmas carols before the Christmas Eve service began;

**To:** Kylee Scheperle and Dan who played their guitars for the Children's Play while the Sunday School children sang "Away in a Manger" and also to Kylee for playing "Silent Night" for the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service and accompanied by Kathy Meller on Keyboard;

**To:** Amber Gardner for directing the Children's Play on Sunday, December 22 and all students that participated (great job);

**To:** Laurie Koestner and Sunday School children for hosting the "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party following the play (also thanks to Curt, Misty and Donita!);

**To:** Candle lighters, ushers, greeters, hosts for Fellowship Hour; AND to our wonderful Pastor David for his special Christmas messages.

**Fruendschaft Gruppe:** Jeannette Fischer, Chair

There were 19 in attendance for the Hanging of the Greens on December 2. Donita and Glen served us a fantastic dinner plus Donita prepared each of us a plate of cookies to take home. Kathryn had all the supplies in place so that our work time was greatly shortened. She and Lester had previously decorated all the outside railings so that also saved us a lot of time and work. Not to mention shivering in the cold. Thanks also to Gus and Sherman for assembling the luminary bags for the Christmas Eve display on the hill. Richard Heidbreder and his crew will light the bags early in the evening. On Friday afternoon, December 20, a group gathered to decorate the tree and take care of remaining decorations. On Wednesday, January 8, we will meet at 3 PM to take down the tree and all decorations and store everything away. Afterwards, we will again treat ourselves to a wine, cheese and soup supper. If you would like to join us in this activity, we welcome you to do so. We will return to our regular meeting schedule in February.

**Mobile Food Pantry:** Audrey Bunch

The December 10th Mobile Food Pantry was held at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot on a cold but sunny afternoon. We served 113 families with 372 people in those families. Some of the items given out was fresh produce assorted leaf lettuce, sugar snap peas, potatoes and tomatoes, soups, cereal, orange juice, soda, salsa, cheese, frozen hamburger and sausage patties. The volunteers were dressed for the weather, hats, gloves, warm coats. Our volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran Church were Pastor David Viles, Kambry Pistel, Becky Weber, Rosemary Heidbreder and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Pantry date will be January 14th at 1:15 P.M.

**O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, How lovely are thy branches... One minute and 39 seconds after striking the match to our Christmas tree in 2018, there was a roaring fire.**



Because of the potential of a fire hazard in our beautiful church and to comply with insurance liability requests, our Safety and Security team recommended we change to an artificial tree this year. The tree chosen as a replacement is 12 feet tall with 1200 pre-lit bulbs and looks very realistic. It was a great choice. A wonderful group gathered on Friday, December 20th to decorate the new tree and made it look beautiful.



Another tree was put up in the Friendship hall for the annual Advent Dinner and program. The cross with lights was constructed by Pastor David, the Star on top was created by Les and Kathryn Linsenbart, and the garland, wreaths and 'Blessing Tree' signs were made by Kathy Meller. Kids and adults also decorated paper ornaments to add to the tree.

**Kathy Meller delighted our congregation with the Advent Dinner Theme: 'The Gifts of Advent'**

On Sunday, December 8th, 73 members and friends of St. Paul's enjoyed a wonderful evening of friendship, food, and fellowship to celebrate the advent season. The evening began at 5:00 p.m. with sparkling juice and social time, followed by a welcoming and opening prayer from Pastor David Viles. Those in attendance were encouraged to decorate an ornament for the Blessing Tree which Pastor Viles made from a wooden cross and lights. The tables were decorated in colors of white and gold and accented with greenery and red candles. After the delicious meal of ham, rolls, sides, and many yummy desserts, everyone settled in for the program, Advent, a Season of Blessings. Through inspirational words and songs the program revealed the blessing of Advent.



**Patience:** Advent is a season of waiting. We need to let go of the anxiety of the season and live in the here and now.



**Perspective:** Advent is a reminder that we should be walking the Christian path of loving God and loving our neighbor. This is where our focus should be.

**Hope:** During Advent we remember the hope we have in God. The choir sang *"Bring Us Hope."*

**Service:** We are called to serve others during the Advent season.

**Opportunity:** During Advent we are given the opportunity to share God's love with others.

As the program ended, Pastor Viles explained that everyone had a Blessing Jar at their seat. Included in each jar were pads of paper and a pencil as well as a candy treat. Everyone was encouraged to write down their blessings each day throughout the season. An Advent prayer was read chorally and the evening ended with the singing of Go Tell It On The Mountain.



**The Year Christmas Changed:** December programs and worship of 2019 offered some new ideas. These changes were proposed by the Music and Worship committee and approved by the Church Council. The Children's Play was held on Sunday, December 22nd as part of the worship. Pastor David narrated the Children's Play while the Sunday school kids acted the parts with many memorizing their lines. Our congregation participated in the singing of five Christmas hymns. The play was performed in place of the Children's sermon and the regular sermon. Our attendance was 149 for the morning. After the service many people gathered downstairs to attend a Jesus Birthday party put on by the children and their Sunday school teachers with a special thanks to Laurie Koestner. This gave everyone an opportunity to talk to the kids, congratulate them on their participation in the play and commend them for being a part of telling the story of Jesus birth.



**Some reasons for this change are:**

1. Christmas Eve is a busy time for everyone.
2. Complaints in the past couple of years have focused on the time taken during Christmas Eve and miles traveled for short play.
3. We have less Sunday School children to participate in the annual play now.



4. Having it on Sunday gives the congregation an opportunity to fellowship with the kids afterward and congratulate them or say something to them. This is not possible on Christmas Eve as everyone rushes out the door to attend other events.

The Christmas Eve service was changed due to the Children's play being held the previous Sunday. The late service at 11:00 p.m. was moved to a 6:30 p.m. evening time. This was a traditional Candle Light service with Communion. As always it was a beautiful and meaningful service and was well attended by 161 members and visitors.

Pastor David reported hearing several favorable comments from those attending after both services. There were also a few unconfirmed dissenting comments through rumor.

This is a good time to underscore the importance of voicing your comments and suggestions to someone on the Mutual Ministry Committee so they can be heard and confidentially forwarded to the proper decision making committee and Church Council.

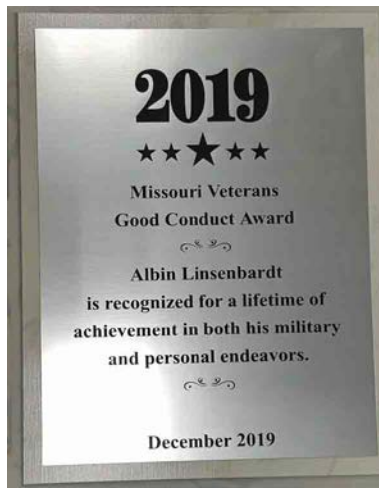
Another impactful way to address church life is to join a committee. The Mutual Ministry committee is in dire need of another member and a chairperson to sit on the Church Council so that ideas can be heard and shared. Other committees have members who term out and need replacements. Please contact the Nominating committee (Stacy Bubach, Frank Pascoe and Alan Scheperle) before our Annual Congregational meeting on January 26, if you are interested in serving.

**Albin Linsenhardt** wishes to thank everyone who sent cards, calls, well wishes, and participated in the celebration of his 102ND Birthday. A great many people gathered on a snowy Sunday afternoon on December 15, 2019 at the VFW Post 35 in St. Martins, MO. to celebrate his birthday and pay honor to Albin for his service in WWII and for the many blessings he has shared with family and friends in Lohman and other places during his 102 years.

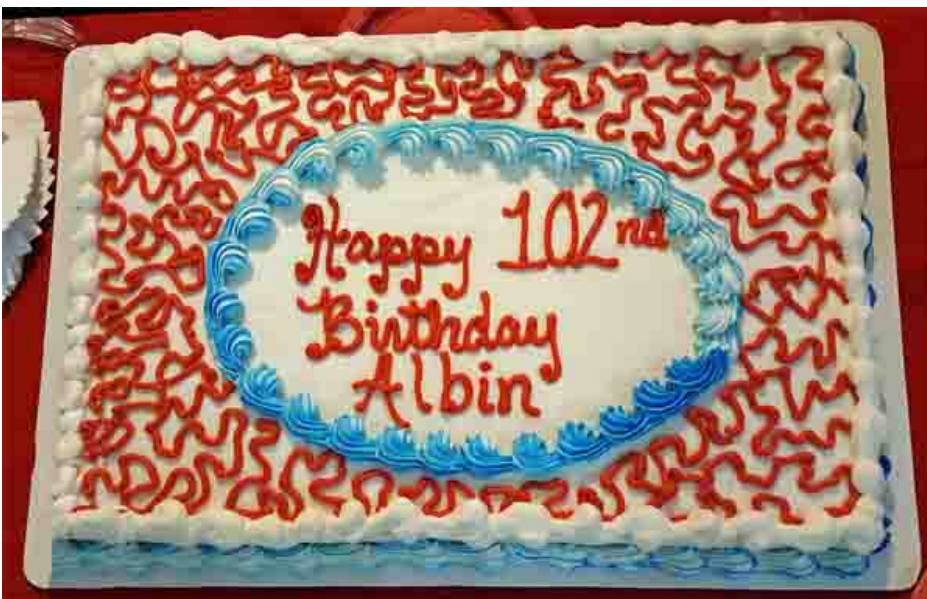
Albin served as a crew chief for the B-29 Superfortress on the island of Saipan. During the gathering Jeremy Paul Amick presented him with the first annual "Missouri Veterans Good Conduct Award." There were also several distinguished guests who came out to recognize and help celebrate with Albin. The celebration was opened with prayer by Pastor David Viles and followed with speeches and awards given by both military personnel and other officials. Some of those were the Missouri National Guard staff led by Adjutant General Levon Cumpston and Brigadier General Charlie Hausman. Also speaking was Rep. Rudy Veit followed by Troy D. Williams, state commander of the VFW.

Donita Stubinger provided a beautiful cake and a tier of cupcakes and the VFW Post 1003 Auxiliary provided baked cookies, coffee and punch.





The letter on the right, (above) is from Missouri Governor Michael Parson reads: Dear Mr. Albin Linsenbardt, Many congratulations to you on your 102nd birthday! My best wishes are with you as you celebrate this day to the fullest. Birthdays are a chance to step back, take stock, and celebrate the many tremendous experiences and achievements you've had over the years. I would especially like to commend you for your faithful efforts to your nation and your community as you courageously served in WWII. I commend you for the impact you have made in the lives of so many men and women who have lived and served alongside you. Teresa and I wish you many more years of happiness.





### **Jr. Lutherans:** Donita Stubinger

For the new year, we are looking forward to making pies, visiting the nursing home, going to Gardner's Welding and a train ride to Herman, MO. We will also be "learning table manners", fishing with our dads on the 4th of July, and our annual pool party.

In the fall, we will be visiting the University of Missouri Farm and carving pumpkins. It is great to share and spend quality time with our church friends. Join us for any of our adventures in 2020.



### **Appreciation and Love**

Donita has been an amazing blessing to St. Paul's congregation and especially to the children and youth in addition to the Jr. Lutherans.

On Sunday, December 15, Pastor David presented Donita with a card signed by many of the children, youth and confirmation students in appreciation for the lunch she has prepared (with help from Curt, Misty, Glen and other family members) each Sunday for the Confirmation students and any other children and adults.

Several parents and Pastor also gathered a collection to include gift cards to three of Donita's favorite places.

Perkins Restaurant in Jefferson City, Kim's Mane Street Salon in Lohman and A Cut Above in Russellville.



### **Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes**

Last month we reported that the Sunday school children had filled 14 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The contents of these boxes was donated by many of our St. Paul's members and a Thrivent Gift Card was used for shipping and the purchase of extra items. We received news that the Christmas Child Shoe Boxes were shipped to Panama on December 7, 2019 in time for the kids there to receive them for Christmas. Thank you kids, teachers and all who donated to bring Christ and a Merry Christmas to those children.

### **2020 Directory Updates**

It is time for all to review their entries in the old 2019 St. Paul's Directory and let us know if there are any changes that need to be made. Changes of postal addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers are particularly important. Since we can't complete our work until after the Annual Meeting and new Council Officers and Committee assignments are known, we'd like to ask all to get their changes in to us by Friday, January 31, 2020. Please communicate any needed changes to us via email at "erikagerth@embarqmail.com" or by phone at "635-6681." Thanks! Bill & Erika Gerth.

### **Lifetouch**

We will soon receive our Photo directories from Lifetouch. Pastor David has been working with them on the draft issues and with Marie Schepeler's help has returned corrected and approved drafts for printing. We should also be given access to an App for phone and computer for electronic contacts. But it is essential to maintain the regular directory from Bill and Erika Gerth as it includes a wealth of information not found in the Photo directory so please give them your updated information.



## Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth



The spirit of Christmas abounded as members of Margaret Circle gathered at the home of Erika Gerth on December 3rd for the group's December meeting. We were delighted to welcome Ruth Stubinger's mother, Elba, who was visiting Ruth's family for the holidays. She spoke no English, none of us other than Ruth spoke Spanish, but Elba seemed to enjoy being in the midst of this happy group! Amber Gardner continued with the tradition of exploring the background of Christmas hymns. She chose the lovely "From Heaven Above" whose text and music were written in 1539 by Martin Luther. Although each stanza is short, it was our feeling that if this hymn were chosen by the Worship and Music Committee for a particular Sunday, singing all fourteen verses might have to substitute for the pastor's sermon! Thanks to the generosity of this group, \$300.00 was sent to Heifer International for the purchase of two pigs and a trio of rabbits in honor of Pastor David. According to Heifer, "Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood." Inge Gauck shared that, on behalf of the Circle, she purchased hats and mittens which were included in the Buddy Packs of 37 children enrolled in Russellville/Cole R-1 Elementary School. We thank God for providing us the resources to help those in need in our own community as well as in other parts of the world! We look forward to a new year filled with opportunities to grow in faith and to serve God's people. All women of St. Paul's and their friends are welcome! Thanks be to God!

**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 snack and fellowship and the movie starts at 7. The movie for December was "Flywheel", a true story of a car salesman who turns his life around as he trusts in God. This was an amazing story of faith and God's answer. If you haven't seen it, I recommend it. Our movie for Friday, January 3 will be "The Christmas Project." 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
Jan-1	Wednesday	I Corinthians 15 & 16
Jan-2	Thursday	11 Corinthians 1-3
Jan-3	Friday	II Corinthians 4-7
Jan-4	Saturday	II Corinthians 8-10
Jan-5	Sunday	II Corinthians 11-13
Jan-6	Monday	Galatians I & 2
Jan-7	Tuesday	Galatians 3 & 4
Jan-8	Wednesday	Galatians 5 & 6
Jan-9	Thursday	Ephesians I & 2
Jan-10	Friday	Ephesians 3 & 4
Jan-11	Saturday	Ephesians 5 & 6
Jan-12	Sunday	Philippians I & 2
Jan-13	Monday	Philippians 3 & 4
Jan-14	Tuesday	Colossians I & 2
Jan-15	Wednesday	Colossians 3 & 4
Jan-16	Thursday	I Thessalonians 1 -3
Jan-17	Friday	I Thessalonians 4 & 5
Jan-18	Saturday	II Thessalonians
Jan-19	Sunday	I Timothy 1 & 2
Jan-20	Monday	I Timothy 3 & 4
Jan-21	Tuesday	I Timothy 5 & 6
Jan-22	Wednesday	II Timothy
Jan-23	Thursday	Titus
Jan-24	Friday	Philemon
Jan-25	Saturday	Hebrews 1-3
Jan-26	Sunday	Hebrews 4-6
Jan-27	Monday	Hebrews 7 & 8
Jan-28	Tuesday	Hebrews 9 & 10
Jan-29	Wednesday	Hebrews 11- 13
Jan-30	Thursday	James 1 & 2
Jan-31	Friday	James 3-5

## Reading Through the Bible

St. Paul's Bible Scholars meet each Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

[← New Schedule for the Month.](#)

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

The gospel of John was very different than the three synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. John begins his writing by letting us know that Jesus wasn't just born but has always existed. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."* John tells us about his first miracle of turning water into wine. He also tells us about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. While the other three gospels share a lot of the same information, John is 90% unique and the focus is on Jesus as the lamb of God who is slaughtered on Passover to give life to all people.

After leaving the four gospels, we read the book of Acts which is a continuation of Luke's writing, a sequel to his gospel. It follows the time after Jesus death and resurrection to report the evangelism of the Apostles, and the conversion of the Christian persecutor Saul who was "ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison" to greatest evangelist Paul after an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Paul then preaches Christ crucified and risen far and wide to other nations and the Christian Church is established and begins to increase and flourish throughout the known world including Rome.

After visiting all of these lands and spreading the 'Good News' of Christ Jesus, Paul himself is persecuted as he had once persecuted others and finds himself arrested. Paul is sent to Rome and is shipwrecked along the way, bitten by a poisonous snake and survived to the astonishment of those with him.

Paul finally arrives in Rome where he is confined to house arrest and begins his evangelism of the people located in

that area. The book of Romans is one of the thirteen letters, also called epistles, that Paul writes to the many nations where he has formed Christian churches. In Romans he continues to proclaim Christ and many are converted. Paul argues that Jews are no better than the Romans. The Romans had laws, and the Jews had laws, but in neither case have the laws changed the desires of humans or transformed their natures from sinful to righteous. Only by faith can a transformation occur. Paul writes about justification by faith. Romans was a favorite book of Martin Luther and it is where he discovers, "The righteous shall live by faith." This was the turning point in his understanding of God's grace through faith and began what would become the great debate with the Catholic Church and the beginning of the **Protest** which evolved into the **Protestant** movement and the formation of the Lutheran Church.

If you are living outside of this area and can't attend, feel free to send questions or comments to Pastor David's email address. [davidviles@cox.net](mailto:davidviles@cox.net)

St. Paul's Calendar January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<a href="#">Calendar Online Link</a>						
			1 Happy New Year <b>2020</b>	2 Bulletin Printed	3 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Movie Night "The Christmas Project"	4
5 9 am Worship Fellowship Hour  4pm Bible Reading Group	6	7 9 AM Worship & Music Meeting	8 Bulletin Printed Freundschaft Gruppe meets to remove tree and decorations	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 9 am Worship Communion Sunday school and Confirmation classes begin 4pm Bible Reading Group	13 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	14 1:15 pm Food Pantry	15 Bulletin Printed 6:00 pm Mutual Ministry Meeting	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 9 am Worship 4pm Bible Reading Group	20 Epistle Deadline Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22 Bulletin Printed	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 9 am Worship Communion 10 am Annual Congregation Meeting WELCA Annual Meeting 4pm Bible Reading Group	27	28	29 Bulletin Printed	30	31 Pastor's Day Off	

**Date**

**Ushers**

**Acolytes | Communion – Youth - Adult**

January 05 Zola Finch | Becky Weber  
 January 12 Paula Linsenbardt | Laurie Koestner  
 January 19 Mitchell Plochberger | Kathy Meller  
 January 26 Delores Vlach | Dan Tschirgi

Kara Freiner  
 Dylan Gardner | Wyatt Prosch | Marie Scheperle  
 Christopher Murphy  
 Emma Gardner | William Gardner | Donald Weber

**Date**

**Greeters**

**Readers**

**Communionware For Month**

January 05 Laurie Koestner | Jerry Koestner  
 January 12 Frank Pascoe | Donald Weber  
 January 19 Stacy and Abby Bubach  
 January 26 Don Buchta | Audrey Bunch

Marlene Carlson  
 Bill Gerth  
 Trish Russell  
 Erika Gerth

Les and Kathryn Linsenbardt  
  
**Flower Chairperson For Month**  
 Kathryn Linsenbardt

**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