

EPIS⁺LE



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

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May - 2020

Pastor's Message

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."<Luke 38:6>

The saying, "absence makes the heart grow fonder" has called to me often this past month as I have been without my beloved congregation. This saying is true, the more I'm away from you the more I miss you, and the more my love for you grows. This saying is part of a quote by the 'Peanuts' creator, Charles M. Schulz. The full quote is: "Absence makes the heart grow fonder, but it sure makes the rest of you lonely."

Yes, I'm lonely for you to be in the church pews on Sunday. I'm lonely for your voice, singing, smiles, laughter and your touch. I miss you greatly. But I'm also your shepherd, called to care for you and do all I can to keep you safe and well. For this reason, I am happy to be physically apart from you for your sake, for your wellbeing. I may not be with you physically but I am always with you emotionally and spiritually. I am present with you in phone calls, emails, texts, Facebook Live and sometimes I even see you at a social distance around the church. But most of all I am present with you in prayer, I pray for you often and I am connected to you through our Lord Jesus the Christ. God takes away the 'absence and loneliness' and brings us together as one in Christ.

I chose the scripture from Luke because I know all too well how we are impacted by our actions, feelings, and love, as we give to each other.

My love of you is little compared to the love I have received from you. The love I have given you has been returned in *"good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over."*

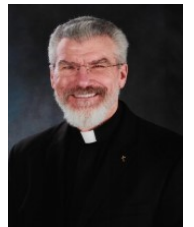
Another quote by Charles M. Schulz: "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

After the death of my brother on April 22, 2020 there was a great out pouring of calls, Facebook posts and of course food brought to our home. Thank you for your prayers, love and all you do for our wonderful Church on the Hill. And for what you have done for me and Donna.

Thank you for always being ready to help your congregational pew mates in times of need and your neighbors no matter who they are as you volunteer in the communities to make sure they receive food and other necessities.

You are the best of the best and the bearer of Christ's light to all.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to you!

03 Scott Grunden
 03 Kathryn Linsenbardt
 04 Shane Russell
 07 Nancy Thompson
 09 Zola Finch
 10 Oliver Stoermer
 10 Herbert Strobel
 12 Roger Thompson
 15 Kim Tschirgi
 19 Dave Boyce
 19 Ruthann Woehrer
 20 Macie Moeller
 21 Lottie Tierney
 23 Dawn James
 23 Ruth Strobel
 25 Anthony James
 25 Marvin Bubach
 25 Kendall Stubinger
 28 Bill Gerth
 28 Lester Linsenbardt
 30 Doug Carel
 30 Dana Moeller
 31 Kiefer Freiner
 31 Ryan Heidbreder



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

06 Denny & Lori Linhardt 2000 (20 Years)
 10 Kris & Laura Tuttle 2015 (5 Years)
 15 Gus & Jeannette Fischer 1960 (60 Years)
 16 Scott & Kelly Grunden 1992
 19 Chris & Elizabeth Russell 2001
 22 Marshall & Julie Griffin 2009
 23 Conor & Angela Tierney 2015 (5 Years)
 23 Dan & Kim Tschirgi 1987
 25 Colin & Ruthann Woehrer 1968
 28 David & Karia Strobel 1977
 31 Bill & Erika Gerth 1960 (60 Years)

Happy Anniversary

Continued prayers for healing.

Marie Schepeler, Gus & Jeannette Fischer, Julie Carel, Gert Strobel, Jade Cary, Vanessa Pyatt, Amy Buechler, Donna Viles, Chris Russell and Pat Collins.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Date	Attendance	Offering
March 29	-	\$530.00
April 05	Virtual	\$4,472.00
April 12	Views	\$5,476.36
April 19	Listed	\$2,269.94
April 26	Below	\$1,030.00
Total	V V = 1746	\$13,778.30

Online Views of worship services



Mar 29 – 436 online views
April 05 – 189 online views
April 09 – 247 online views
April 10 – 321 online views
April 12 – 631 online views
April 19 – 331 online views
April 26 – 159 online views

In Addition: Epistle \$44.00
 Ash Wednesday: Oaks Indian Center \$493.74
 Lent Services: ELCA Hunger Appeal \$915.50
 Maundy Thurs/Good Friday: Heisinger \$463.00

Special Gifts Included in total:

Pastor David donation of City Council Salary \$300.00



Gus and Jeannette Fischer Thanks to our many friends, both near and far, who prayed for us during our recent struggle with the coronavirus. Also, thanks for the food, mail delivery, masks, telephone calls, e-mails, cards and notes. Our recovery continues and we are feeling better each day.

Ellen Strobel gives thanks for all the calls, cards, food and well wishes for her birthday on April 15, 2020. She was even surprised to have one person sing Happy Birthday in German.

Leroy Plochberger is grateful for the prayers, cards, food and many blessings from our congregation. His shingles are getting better but will be an irritation for a long time to come.

Marie Schepeler appreciates all the prayers, calls, cards, food and other blessings after her fall and being forced to definitely stay in her home.

Ask the Pastor

Question: On Easter morning we hear about Mary Magdalene and the 'other Mary' going to see the tomb where Jesus lay. Who is the 'Other Mary'?

Answer:

"After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb." <Matthew 28:1>

There are six Mary's listed in the New Testament:

Often the gospel writer will define the person with some kind of attribute but in two cases this Mary is a bit of a mystery for us unless we do a little leg work in the other scriptures.

In this account of the risen Lord by Matthew, he simply refers to her as the 'Other' Mary and we are not given a clue as to who she is in this story.

One of the things we must remember while reading the Bible is the writers were not writing to us but to the people of that time period. So they already have an understanding and some knowledge of what is going on and the context of what is being told to them.

We are fortunate to still have these holy scriptures two thousand years after the time it happened and was written. But we do not have the foreknowledge or understanding of what was happening at the time.

In a few decades or hundred years, people will happen upon a story about the Covid-19 virus and they may see some stories of people being told to stay in their homes and not to go to church. This may seem strange to them as these types of virus' may have been wiped out in their time and they won't have the context or knowledge to help them understand what comes so naturally to us.

The gospel of Mark (written before Matthew) says: "Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome." and "Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where [Jesus] was laid.

<Mark 15:40,47>

The gospel writer of John says: "Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. *<John 19:25>*

From these and other scriptures we find that the 'Other Mary' was the mother of James, Joseph (Jose), and the wife of Clopas.

During our last Sunday in April we hear the gospel of Luke 24 which tells us a story of two disciples returning home after the third day after the crucifixion of Jesus and they meet a man along the way who they later discover is their risen Lord Jesus the Christ. One of the disciples is named Cleopas (also spelled Clopas) but the other one is not named at any time.

Cleopas and the 'other disciple' are going to their home in Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem. We know that Cleopas/Clopas is married to the 'other Mary' and they were both in Jerusalem during the Passover and also witnessed the crucifixion and empty tomb of Jesus.

Again we find the 'Other Mary' not named but clearly the one on the road home with her husband. Sometimes we pass over things we hear or read in the Bible because it just doesn't seem all that important at the time, and maybe it isn't. But then someone will latch onto that missing part and begin to wonder and ponder on it until they have to find out. Then they will ask the Pastor, "Who is the 'other Mary'?" or maybe they will start doing the leg work themselves and find the answer.

Perhaps someone, some day in the future will happen upon a story about the Novel Covid-19 virus and read about countries staying home and sheltering in place. Then someone may ask the question, "Why did they stay home and isolate themselves?" We lived it and know it well, but they will have to dig for it, and do the leg work of looking for the answer.

Blessings to you,
Pastor David

Congregational Council Meeting, April 20, 2020
Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, Church Council Secretary

A Congregational Council meeting using electronic "Go to Meeting" and "phone in" was called to order at 6:35pm on April 20, 2020 by Council President Zola Finch. This change in format from our regular in-house meetings is in compliance with our country's 'Covid-19 crisis' shelter in place advisement. Present were council members Zola Finch, Laurie Koestner, Kathy Meller, Paula Linsenbardt, Dan Tschirgi, Scott Soell and Becky Weber. Absent were Delores Vlach and Mitch Plochberger. Also present was Pastor David Viles. Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe was absent and emailed her report to all prior to the meeting. The meeting was opened with a devotion by Pastor Viles, based on Colossians 4, verse 2, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful and ending with a prayer.

President Finch called for approval of the previous council meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Dan Tschirgi, seconded by Laurie Koestner, and passed via voice vote.

President Finch directed the council members to council treasurer Kay Pascoe's report that was previously emailed to all. There was discussion on the fiscal health of our church, the electronic transfer of weekly church offerings, and question was put forth if there are any members in our congregation having any financial problems related to the Covid 19 crisis. The Food Bank in Russellville for April was held in the parking lot at St. Michael's Church, and staffed by Food Bank employees. Pastor will include in the Epistle that if anyone wishes to donate canned goods, they may be brought to church for pick up and distribution.

President Finch called for approval of Pastor David's March mileage of 138 miles at a total of \$79.35. Paula Linsenbardt made a motion to approve mileage, seconded by Laurie Koestner and passed via voice vote.

Pastor David reported the following activities for March, 2020: Five meetings, multiple calls and emails, one wedding, one funeral visitation, one funeral service, helped at Food Bank in Russellville, created, emailed and sent via postal service the March Epistle, and multiple calls to check on the elderly and others. Pastor David conducted a total of seven church services, one communion, six non-communion, two of which were held in our church, two were on online via Facebook Live due to shelter in place mandate and two Wednesday evening Lenten services in the Friendship hall.

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

Old Business:

None

New Business:

President Finch called for discussion regarding Sunday worship services. President Finch suggested we consider following recommendations put forth by Cole County Health Department regarding public gatherings, and Becky Weber affirmed this recommendation. After discussion, it is the current recommendation of council members to continue with online Facebook livestream services, and not open up worship for physical attendance at this time in order to protect the health and safety of our congregation. The message was put forth by President Finch to wash your hands, take care of yourself and be safe.

President Finch called for a motion to adjourn, Laurie Koestner made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Dan Tschirgi, and passed via voice vote.

Pastor closed the meeting with a special closing prayer, and the Our Father was prayed by all.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33pm. Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, council secretary.

Evangelism: Delores Vlach

Delores Vlach, absent, no report. Pastor reported the online Facebook live services are a great evangelism tool, adding there were 50 online views during the live Easter Sunday service and an additional 581 visits to website to view Easter Service following completion of the service. This accounted for a total of 631 partial or complete views of the service.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi

Dan offered discussion on purchase of a camera to continue with live broadcast of worship services. Dan will contact someone for information regarding a recommendation of a camera that will suit the needs of our church.

Worship & Music: Kathy Meller

Kathy extended a thank you to Pastor David and Zola for providing our livestream church services and music. Kathy and her committee chose the May Hymns. There was discussion on upcoming church celebrations to include the honoring of our veterans for Veterans Day, Mother's Day, Pentecost Sunday, recognition of our high school seniors to include Kaitlyn Finch, Jahanna Koestner, Anna Stubinger and Matthew Miller, and recognition of our college graduates to include Natalie Benne and Bethanee Plochberger. Pastor David reports there are three more classes to be completed for our Confirmands, and parents will be asked to assist these students with online completion of these classes.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner

Laurie reports there has not been anything reported to her concerning Vacation Bible School to date. Pastor David advised the Mid-Mo Camps have been canceled this year.

Church Improvement: Mitchell Plochberger

Mitch Plochberger, absent. Pastor David reports the roof of the parsonage will be investigated for possible replacement following the hail storm. Church Cleanup was done by Pastor David, Marie Scheperle, and Jackson Scheperle. The Kitchen Renovation is currently on hold.

Stewardship: Paula Linsenbardt (No report)

Mutual Ministry: Scott Soell

Scott reports the previous complaints of noise in the narthex prior to church services has been depleted and this is good. Scott was very thankful and congratulated all on reduction of noise. The April meeting was canceled and the next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2020.

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer, Chair

In late January I made reservations for our gruppe to attend The Sisters Act at the Lyceum Theater in Arrow Rock with dinner afterward at the Huston Tavern. With the coronavirus situation, everything has been changed. The theater has canceled all plays until late August and maybe even beyond that date. We are now rescheduled for Saturday, July 24, 2021 for the same play, same seats, etc. Hopefully by next year we will all be free to travel and return to a somewhat normal life style. If you have questions or comments, feel free to give me a call at 782-4594.

Thanks, Jeannette

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

Due to the Coronavirus lockdown, the Food Pantry was not held at Trinity Church in April and our St. Paul's Church members chose to follow Governor Parson's mandate to remain at home. The Food Pantry will again distribute food from the St. Michaels Catholic Church on May 12 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

This month we honor our graduates from High school and College. Their hard work and dedication is a testament to their achievement and desire to move toward a life of fulfilled dreams.



Natalie Benne

I am so excited to say that I will be graduating from Missouri State University in the spring of 2020. Over the past three years I have been involved in multiple organizations and clubs that have made my college experience memorable. I have been an active member of the Sigma Alpha agricultural sorority chapter at MSU for three years. My most favorite memories were made when I was an orientation leader for incoming students for a summer at MSU. Helping students transition into college inspired me to want to pursue Student Affairs. Upon graduating from college I am going to continue my education at Missouri State University working towards a masters of science in Student Affairs in Higher Education. During this time I will also be working in the MSU admissions office as a graduate assistant. Thank you to everyone who has supported me while I have been in Springfield the past three years. I look forward to the next two!



Bethanee Plochberger

I am graduating from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in Park Management and Conservation with an emphasis in natural resource management, and a minor in Agronomy. I am a member of George Wright Society Tallgrass Chapter where we volunteer locally, do service activities, and we recently went on a hiking and camping trip to Ozark National Forest in Arkansas. I will be completing my internship over this summer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Milford Lake as a park ranger. After that I hope to become a soil conservation technician to help farmers and landowners with resource issues and make a difference in conservation and help better conservation practices.



Jahanna Koestner

I am graduating from Russellville High School 2020. My plans after high school are to go to Moberly Area Community College, Columbia Missouri campus. I plan to get my Associates Degree in Occupational Therapy Assistance. I will be traveling from home during these years. Then I plan on moving forward and get my Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy.



Anna Stubinger

I am currently a Senior at Russellville High School. I am in FFA and also BETA. I played softball for 2 years and was a volleyball manager for one year. I have enjoyed high school. My future plans are to go the Ozark Technical College for two years. After that I plan to transfer to a school that I can finish out in a nursing program. I want to become a pediatric nurse.



Kaitlyn Finch

In high school I was a 3 year member of Zonta Club, a 4 year member of Disney Club, a 2 year sound crew member of the musicals, and a 4 year member of choir. In my sophomore year our women's choir was invited to sing at the Missouri Music Educators conference where only 10 choirs from the state were invited to sing. Between my work and school schedule I volunteered at The Habitat For Humanity Resale Store. After graduation, I plan on going to college for psychology and American Sign Language and continuing to work.



Matthew Miller

My name is Matthew Miller. I am a 2020 graduate of Russellville High School. I am grateful to have been involved in Baseball, Basketball and National Honor Society. During my High School career, I was fortunate enough to be part of our Indians baseball team that won three district championships in a row including a Final Four appearance with a 3rd place win in state. I believe we would have been district champs again this year and am sad to have missed the opportunity to achieve this with my Freshman brother. My future plans are to attend and play college baseball at Mineral Area College in Park Hills, Missouri. I plan to study Business/Economics, transferring to Mizzou after Mineral Area College to complete my degree and to play ball. I am grateful for both my family and my church congregation at St. Paul's for always being there for me. I have been part of St. Paul's since birth and my faith has grown tremendously over the years. I will take this faith with me into my future as I know God is always guiding and leading me. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13



News Tribune – Jefferson City, Missouri

Russellville's Matthew Miller (seated center) signs a letter of intent to play baseball at Mineral Area College in Park Hills. Also seated are his father, Tony Miller, and his mother, Connie Miller. Standing (from left) are Central Missouri Phenom baseball coach Neal Sidebottom, Russellville baseball assistant coach Tyler Watkins, Russellville baseball head coach Lucas Branson and Russellville baseball assistant coach Brian Bishop.

Caring for God's people: During this time of the covid-19 pandemic, many people have lost jobs, or working hours have been reduced. If you are local to Lohman and Russellville and have a need, please contact Pastor David or leave a message on the church phone. Please do not allow yourself or your children to go to bed without food. Pastor David and the church have plenty to share, and we will do what we can to help you through this difficult time. All concerns will be completely confidential.

From: Becky Hayden Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 11:14 PM To: Pastor David Viles Subject: Camp

Good evening all, I have received an email from LOMC stating that they will be canceling their camps for this summer. This means we will not have counselors available for Mid-Mo Bible Camp. I believe we will have to cancel Mid-Mo this year as well. There is much uncertainty with the virus at this time and what the next months will look like, plus not having counselors, that we cannot plan on a camp this year. I will talk with LOMC more about our deposit and also with the state park.

I hope next year will be different and we can make plans again.

Becky Hayden

CANCELED Until Further Notice

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger, **Safety and Security:** Rich Prosch, **Margaret Circle:** Erika Gerth, **WELCA:** Audrey Bunch, **S.T.A.R.S., Friday Family Fun Movie Night, all meetings except through online platforms unless approved using social distancing.**

The wonders and joys of sheltering in place during the Coronavirus Pandemic:

The Wisdom of 2019: Stay away from negative people.

The Wisdom of 2020: Stay away from positive people.

The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!

This virus has done what no woman had been able to do...cancel all sports, shut down all bars, and keep men at home!!!

I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6 foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!

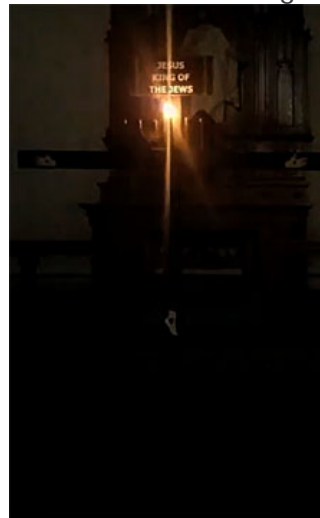
When this is over...what meeting do I attend first...Weight Watchers or AA?

The Farming Pastor: Thank you Jason and Leroy Plochberger for coming out in the rain to plow up a garden spot for Pastor and Donna. Thank you also Scott Soell for your help and equipment to prepare the area for planting. Now to figure out what to plant and were to get it...



Easter on the Hill: Easter was a little unusual this year with the stay at home orders due to the coronavirus. I have never experienced empty pews during Easter Sunday. But I want to tell you about a couple of other interesting occurrences leading up to, and including Easter Sunday.

On Good Friday, the service included a cross in the sanctuary with seven candles that were extinguished one at a time as I read the last seven words of Jesus. The last candle would not go out so I forced the thimble I was



using on top of it to make it go out. I then left and turned off the lights in the sanctuary but when I returned, the last center candle and blown the thimble off and relit with a mighty flame.

Joan Stubinger commented later after watching it at home, "Jesus died on the cross but his light still burned!"

Amen to that Joan!!!



The Crosses on the Hill: The three crosses on the lower section of the Hill hold a special meaning during Lent and Easter as they represent the death of Jesus and the two criminals beside him. Last year Audrey Bunch and Rosemary Heidbreder planted tulip bulbs around all three cross without knowing the color. The color turned out to be bright red and one dozen appeared on the center cross. Three on the cross to the left. None on the other. We think of Jesus in the center and one of the criminals who spoke in Jesus' favor and was



with him in paradise on one of the others.

Due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus issues during May, we will not have a calendar of events. We are just now beginning to get guidance from Governor Parsons, Cole County and Central States Synod. Our Church Council will meet on May 11 to consider Missouri's Phase 1 of reopening and also our Synod's suggestions to keep everyone safe.

As soon as we have made a confirmed decision through the consensus of the Church Council we will send out email and phone announcements as to when and how we will regather for worship in person. I am as hopeful as everyone else that we can be together as soon as possible, but I pray that God leads us to make the best possible decision to keep our church family safe.

Prayer: Gracious God of light and love, I pray for this faithful and loving congregation of St. Paul's church. Protect them every day and keep them safe from the dangers of the world including this coronavirus that has affected over one million people in our Nation and caused the deaths of nearly sixty thousand at this time. Guide us through your spirit of protection and love to make the correct choice as we prepare to return to worship together in your house on the Hill. In Jesus name, Amen.

Blessings to you all, Pastor David

Obituary for Reverend Herbert W. Schiller



Reverend Herbert W. Schiller, 93 of Eagle Grove, passed away Monday, March 16, 2020 at the Clarion Wellness and Rehab Center.

He was born April 30, 1926 in Gaylord, Kansas the son of Rev. J.C. and Adele (Kirchhoff) Schiller. He graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly then went to Wartburg seminary in Dubuque graduating in 1954.

His first congregation was in Bryron, Nebraska, then to Palmer, Iowa. He later served at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Eagle Grove. Later in Manchester, then St John's Lutheran Church in Cushing. Nearing retirement, he was pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Hardy, Ullensvang Lutheran Church in Thor, Lake Lutheran Church in Goldfield and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Renwick.

Herb is survived by his wife 70 years, Elaine, his son, Stephen (Connie) Schiller of Charles City, his grandchildren, Cathy Salinas, Stacey Below, Jon Schiller, Jennifer Contreras and Jason Thompson, also six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, son Jeffrey and daughters Christine and Julie K. and his great-grandson Spencer Thompson. Funeral Services will be held Friday, March 20th at the Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery with military rites by the American Legion and VFW Posts in Eagle Grove. www.masonlindhart.com



Interesting fact: Reverend Herbert's father was Reverend John C. Schiller who was Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church on the Hill from 1930 until 1947.

This means his son, Herbert, grew up running around the parsonage and church yard from the time he was four years old until he turned 21 years old.

Gert Strobel remembers the family and said that Herbert was not interested in becoming a Pastor but instead wanted to be a farmer. He worked at the Lohman Exchange for a while but finally submitted to God's Call to serve the Church.