



Pastor's Message

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." <James 1:12 >



*← With wings so delicate and damaged,
but yet still savoring the nectar of life...*

We have been locked down and isolated for the most part for the past 138 days, but who's counting? EVERYONE..!

These past four months have been interesting to say the least and have changed our lives in the most unexpected ways. I could have never imagined that church buildings would be shut down and congregations not allowed to gather in person to worship God.

Thankfully, the Holy Spirit guided us to find new ways to come together and worship online. Connected to Facebook Live we could even send messages to each other and make our presence known.

We have been secluded to our homes except for 'essential' tasks such as purchasing toilet paper if it can be found on the shelf. Doctor's visits unless they can be done online through ZOOM. Grocery shopping unless we can get it delivered or placed in the back of our vehicle.

Some people are protesting because they have to wear a mask to keep their neighbor's safe. Other people are protesting because some people are not wearing a mask to keep their neighbors safe. Nerves are getting frayed from being kept in close proximity to our loved ones for such a long period of time. However, before the coronavirus pandemic, we dreamed of staying home from work or school with our loved ones and working on the computer. We romanticize being secluded in a mountain top cabin or island on the ocean by our self or with our family. We love being alone with a good book or movie. So why are we so upset? Because it isn't our choice and we are not in control, but we never were, only God is in control. God tells us to "persevere under trial" and "receive the crown of life."

I took the photo of the butterfly above a few years ago and it reminds me how fragile life is and at the same time how we should never give up but instead continue to persevere. The butterfly's wings are damaged nearly to the point of un-use and yet she continues to savor the nectar of life as she goes from bloom to bloom. I think God gives us a wonderful lesson in this little butterfly he created. Life isn't always easy but we are surrounded in God's blessings of nectar to enjoy. Don't be so busy complaining that you miss an opportunity to taste the nectar of life.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to you!

- 2 Scott Soell
- 2 David Strobel
- 4 Beverly Boehm
- 5 Lindsey Plochberger
- 7 Ladine Heidbreder
- 8 Peyton Stubinger
- 9 Julie Griffin
- 14 John Loesch
- 15 Marlene Carlson
- 15 Nicole Benne
- 17 Ashley Meyer
- 18 Lindsey Carrel
- 18 Michael Linhardt
- 18 Tingleigh Strobel
- 18 Delores Vlach
- 19 Kylee Scheperle
- 24 Lucas Plochberger
- 24 Frank Pascoe
- 26 Michael Elliott
- 26 Jordan Russell
- 29 Barbara Carrel
- 29 Arabella Ferrell
- 29 Mandy Miller
- 29 Craig Stubinger
- 31 Marshal Schroeder



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mitchell & Laura Plochberger 2009
- 2 Mike & Diane Kalaf 1975 45 Years
- 6 Frank & Kay Pascoe 1967
- 8 Jamie & Amanda Bunch 2009
- 9 Larry & Debby Koestner 1969
- 19 Les & Kathryn Linsenbardt 1962
- 23 Alan & Rania Scheperle 2003
- 27 Pastor Ed & Carole Merckel 1977

Continued prayers for healing and comfort.

Marie Scheperle, Julie Carel, baby Jane Grimm, Vanessa Pyatt, Donna Viles, Chris Russell, Gert Strobel, Glenda Hake and Pat Collins.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
July 5	29 / 184	\$2,935.00
July 12	40 / 193	\$2,939.00
July 19	24 / 145	\$3,731.36
July 26	52 / 178	\$1,995.00
Total	145 / 700	\$11,600.36

In Addition: \$200.00

Thank you to our (unofficial 😊 members) watching the online weekly virtual service, who have been so kind to send in offering gifts to help support God's mission at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on the Hill.

THANK YOU: Julie and Kent Nelson for the beautiful roses on the altar with lights and the Confirmation bouquets for Kylee and Lexie.



Ask the Pastor

Question: Does God really hear our prayers? What if I'm not praying the right way or saying the right words or I fall asleep before I'm finished praying at night?

Answer: *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."* <Romans 8:26> NIV

This question is most likely shared by everyone at one time or another including myself at points in my life. Sometimes we pray and pray and pray but do not see the results we expected and wonder, 'does God really hear our prayers?'

We also play the guilt card and imagine we just aren't doing it the right way or saying the right words or we feel maybe we just are not sincere enough because we can't stay focused while praying.

We are Christians and that means we are disciples of Jesus the Christ. Our hearts and minds are opened by his teachings and his actions. These are the blueprints of Christian thoughts and actions for us to follow on a path to stay in relationship with God as Jesus' followers.

I think it is notable to consider we are not the first to question our prayers. The original twelve disciples also were unsure of how to pray and what to say. "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."" <Luke 11:1> and Jesus taught them the Lord's prayer that we still pray to this day.

But how do we know for sure that God hears our prayers? We are disciples of Jesus the Christ. We have been baptized as children of God and become brothers and sisters of our Lord and Savior. We know that what he taught us is true. There are many scriptures that tell us of God's attention to our prayers, but for me there is one spoken by Jesus that gives me assurance. It comes from the story of Lazarus raised from the tomb. "So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me... <John 11:41-42a>

In these words, Jesus assures us that God does hear his Son and in the same way all of his children which are all Christians. "I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me." So why do we doubt and wonder if God hears our prayers? Jesus tells the disciples of his time, and you, the disciples of this day, that they will be persecuted. Indeed, many have been persecuted and even put to death for their belief and pronouncement of Jesus as Lord.

But there is another persecution that isn't as obvious as the stories of those who have been put in prison or even killed. The other is the persecution from the devil himself and it isn't a physical harm, but one of deceit and beguilement. What you hear in your mind is: 'Why would God listen to you? Didn't you say mean things to that person today?', 'There are billions of people in the world, you can't expect God to hear all those prayers', 'Your life is a mess, you are not worthy of God's attention!'

If you listen to the devil and fall for his deceit, then you will also fall away from prayer and give up. Then you may drift away from God and your relationship becomes broken. This is the devil's intent. Believe in Jesus' words and turn a deaf ear to the devil. Know that God hears your prayers and when you do not know what to say, **"the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."** **"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me..."**

Blessings to you,
Pastor David

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” <Prov. 16:3>

The work of St. Paul’s servants continues to keep God’s House and land beautiful.

THANK YOU:

Scott Soell for power-washing the steps, landing and area around the front of St. Paul’s, as well as the red blocks, benches and Bell in the area south of the steps. It all looks wonderful and we appreciate you and Vanessa coming out to do this job.



THANK YOU:

Gus Fischer for mowing the hill during the spring and thank you Leroy Plochberger for the summer mowing. Also thanks to Alan Scheperle for mowing the ditches and areas hard to get with the larger mowers both times. You all are great, and so is the beauty of the Hill.



Thank you St. Paul's Congregation and Friends:

Words cannot express my heartfelt thankfulness and gratitude for my wonderful family, my St. Paul's extended family & my cluster WELCA friends for the enormous love and concern shown to me throughout the weeks following my fall and surgeries/rehabilitation. The cards, food & phone calls were and are greatly appreciated. -- I cannot thank everyone enough for their generosity.

Special thanks to our dear Pastor David for his unending love & concern with devotions & prayers during my stay in Columbia and now continuing at home. The complete healing is yet to come, but the once never-ending pain has certainly subsided. I have come to understand the love shown to us through Jesus Christ is so much more than all the pain & hurt one can bear, and He continues to show Himself and is with me daily through all of you.

Again, my sincerest thanks ... Marie Scheperle

July Babies

PHILIP SCOTT



CONGRATULATIONS TO VANESSA & SCOTT SOELL

On the birth of their son, Philip Scott Soell
born at 9:23 p.m., Thursday – July 16, 2020
Philip Scott weighed 6 lbs. 13 Oz. and was 20 inches long.
The Soell family are at home and doing great.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RYAN & AMBERLYN FERRELL

On the birth of their twins born on Monday, July 20, 2020
Son Remington Leroy Ferrell was born first at 7:58 p.m.
and he weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. and was 21 inches long.
Daughter Charlie Mae Ferrell was born one minute later
at 7:59 p.m. and she weighed 4 lbs. and was 17 inches
long.

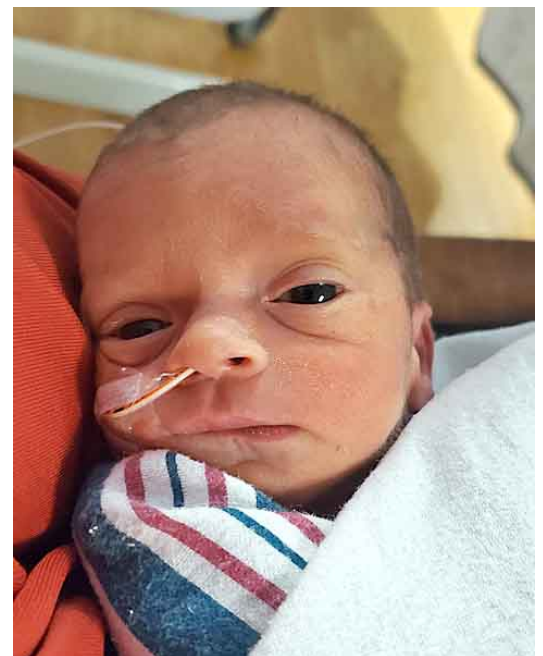
REMINGTON LEROY



Brother and sister are currently in NICU and doing good, but since they were born a little early they will remain in NICU for a while until they are fully ready to come home.

Thank you Lord for the gift of these three beautiful babies. We pray your presence will be felt and known to these families and you will keep them in good health, comfort and peace. Amen

CHARLIE MAE



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

A Congregational Council meeting called to order by President Zola Finch at 6:30pm on Monday July 13, 2020 in the church basement with social distancing in compliance with Covid-19 guidelines. Present were council members Zola Finch, Laurie Koestner, Kathy Meller, Paula Linsenbardt, Dan Tschirgi, Delores Vlach, Mitch Plochberger and Becky Weber. Absent was Scott Soell. Also present was Pastor David Viles and Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Viles, followed by a devotion from Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Pastor said that when we look to our human nature only, we make decisions based on our thoughts and emotions. The prominent emotion we rely most on is fear. Every decision in some way is based on how a situation will directly affect us personally or someone we care about. But there is another nature and it is the Spirit, in our trust of God's grace to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This freedom that brings joy and not fear comes from our relationship with God and our faith and trust in His care of for us. When we relinquish control to God and trust in His care of us we can find joy and hope in a life that is otherwise restricted and crushed by our nature of human anxiety. As we yield our control to God, and as we go forward with decisions to be made concerning the health and safety of our congregation in this time of the pandemic, we can accept God's nature to unite with our human nature and allow God to show us His will which transcends all understanding.

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

President Finch directed the council members to the treasurer's report distributed by council treasurer Kay Pascoe. Kay Pascoe called for a \$500.00 donation to Samaritan Center. President Finch called for a motion to approve aforementioned donation and to address this request on an annual basis in July. Paula Linsenbardt made this motion, seconded by Kathy Meller, and passed via voice vote. A motion was made by Laurie Koestner to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Mitch Plochberger, and passed via voice vote.

Pastor David asks that he be allowed to donate the 23 miles he drove this past month, and this was accepted with thanksgiving by council members. He reported the following activities for June, 2020: Confirmation at Wasserlauf, preached message for baccalaureate senior students at Cole R 1 Russellville High School, picked up mail at post office while Marie has been out, opened church friendship hall for voting, closed up afterward, created epistle for July, emailed on June 30, 2020, postal mail on July 1, 2020. Pastor reported on the following meetings: Worship and Music email exchange, Church Council, City Council, Mutual Ministry, and Ministerial Alliance. He had several phone conversations and consultations. Services for June include four online services at St. Paul's using Facebook Live and four in house worship services using Social Distancing and Covid-19 guidelines, with a Confirmation service on June 21, 2020.

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

Old Business: President Finch offers that she will revisit our current Covid-19 procedures.

New Business: President Finch will compile a list of all church positions for next month's council meeting that will need a backup person to perform duties in the event of an unforeseen absence.

President Finch

Called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Koestner, seconded by Paula Linsenbardt and passed via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Pastor David closed the meeting with a special prayer.

Evangelism: Delores Vlach reports it was decided to table the decision on whether or not to hold Church Family Day until the August council meeting due to Covid-19. She also reports there will be no snacks/drinks at the August 4, 2020 election due to Covid-19. It has been decided to cancel this year's chili supper due to Covid-19.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi presented a bid from The Entertainer for possible purchase of equipment for enhanced service broadcasting. After discussion, President Finch called for a motion to purchase equipment from The Entertainer with added AT&T hot spot internet service as required for the approximate amount of \$4,500.00 with the understanding funds for such will come from private donations. A motion was made by Mitch Plochberger, seconded by Kathy Meller and passed via voice vote.

Worship & Music: Kathy Meller reports the August hymns were chosen for worship services. Pastor David was thanked for recognizing our veterans during our patriotic worship service. After much discussion, because of the recent spike in the number of active Covid-19 cases in Cole county, it was decided we will continue to abide by Covid-19 guidelines put forth by Church Council and not sing during worship services. We will revisit this issue at the August Church Council meeting. After discussion, it was decided we will begin having Holy Communion in August using Covid-19 safety guidelines. President Finch and Kathy Meller were thanked for playing at our worship services.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner reports she will post a sign-up sheet for God's Work Our Hands T-shirts and check into possibly having a church work day in service to community members in need of yard work cleanup. Laurie reports she will check with ELCA, other local churches and Cole R 1 School regarding guidelines in reopening our Sunday School.

Church Improvement: Mitchell Plochberger will obtain price quotes regarding cost of a flag pole on our church property. Mitch will email our church insurance company regarding parsonage roof replacement.

Stewardship: Paula Linsenbardt - No report

Mutual Ministry: Scott Soell, absent. Pastor David reports Mutual Ministry is in the process of performing Staff Evaluations that need to be completed by September of 2020.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The July 14th Mobile Food Truck was held at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot. We served 114 families with 366 people in those families. The new method of the people staying in their vehicles worked pretty good. We started a little early serving the families since we were ready and it was a hot afternoon. Some of the items given away were dry beans, red potatoes, dairy boxes containing milk, sour cream, cottage cheese, frozen chicken nuggets, frozen non-meat patties, salad bowls, bags of onions, multi-colored peppers and 'Shout It Out' spray. We had thirteen volunteers that stayed busy. From the Lohman Lions Club was Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran was Rosemary Heidbreder and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Truck will be August 11th at 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Virtual VBS "God's Global Kids": Learning to Love the World"

A very special **THANK YOU** to **Jana Thompson** who organized a place for St. Paul's kids to join the Oasis UCC in Jefferson City, National Avenue Christian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MO. for online Vacation Bible School. Jana also conducted two craft sessions during the week for the kids to learn and have fun. Due to the ongoing coronavirus, our local VBS churches had to cancel this year, but thanks to Jana Thompson our kids were still able to attend and learn.

Thank you St. Paul's members! Amber Gardner

Together we collected 91 pairs of shoes for the Strong Tower Haiti shoe drive! With your generous help, Strong Tower Haiti collected 3,867 pairs of shoes. This will bring relief to thousands of people who have to walk barefoot over debris scattered from earthquakes and storms.

CONFIRMATION OF STUDENTS CONTINUES



Two more students have been confirmed at St. Paul's Church. July 26, 2020 I was blessed to confirm Kylee Scheperle and Lexie Plochberger during our morning service. They were surrounded by family, sponsors, friends and church family who participated in their confirmation rite. St. Paul's is proud of your accomplishment of participating in the two-year study of catechism and scriptures and we pray what you have learned will sustain you both in your lives ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS
Kylee and Lexie

Pastor David performed a wedding for friends of Don Buchta on July 18th at a little church in Cook Station, MO. Congratulations to Sarah & Zach Weaver of Jefferson City.

There was a Mini-Bride ready to fill in if Sarah didn't show up and a Shih Tzu to stand in for Zach. Ha



Blessings in Christ to you all, hang in there. Be safe, wash your hands and take care of your neighbor.