

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 64 No. 10

October - 2020

Pastor's Message

Psalm 85

"You, Lord, showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us. Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations? Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps."

Do you remember when life seemed easy and good? You could travel wherever you wished and join large groups of people seeing the wonders that surrounded you. It seemed as though we were living in paradise or at the least 'Good Times.'

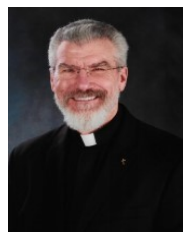
Then along came the year or 2020 and the fabric of good days unraveled and left behind the hidden despair, anguish and anxiety that permeates the sorrowful days of separation and confinement.

We hear it in the words of the psalmist, the past was so good. God had set aside the sins and iniquities committed by the people. Now the psalmist calls on God to do it again, because, of course, the people didn't learn from their past mistakes and continued to sin against God and each other. He asks, "Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?" In reading the Old Testament we see the people can never do what God's law commands them to do. They are in a routine of sinning, being forgiven and restored and then starting the cycle over again and again.

God understands that their human instincts are frail and they are unable to do what is right in God's sight. So instead of continuing to punish them, receive their sacrifices and then punish them again, God has mercy and compassion on his fragile creation. God makes the ultimate sacrifice for them by sending his Son, Jesus the Christ to bring eternal salvation. "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other." "The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest."

These tough times we are living now are not a punishment from God but what we have done to ourselves. But we can be sure that God in his mercy will see us through and we will once again live in joy and comfort.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



FINANCIAL UPDATE

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to you!

- 1 Karey Freiner
- 4 Brian Hager
- 5 Pastor David Viles
- 8 Donna Viles
- 10 Susan Neenan
- 12 Howard Hahn
- 12 Adyson Wykes
- 14 Henry Carrel
- 15 Matthew Miller
- 17 Brant Tschirgi
- 23 Leann Hager
- 26 Cecil Knernschild
- 26 Lexie Plochberger
- 27 Gary Elliott
- 27 Scott Linhardt
- 28 Eric Koestner
- 28 Jeffrey Bubach



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Jason & Jacklyn Wood 2012
- 12 Bill & Angie Stubinger 1996
- 17 Mark & Kathy Meller 1981
- 22 Darren & Michelle Collins 1994
- 25 Gary & Sherrie Hanks 1975 **45 Years**
- 26 Scott & Vanessa Soell 2019

Continued prayers for healing and comfort.

Joyce Maddox, Kent Nelson, Marie Scheperle, Julie Carel, baby Jane Grimm, Vanessa Pyatt, Donna Viles, Chris Russell, Gert Strobel, Pat Collins, and Jade Westbrooks.

Condolences and heartfelt sympathy for:

The family of Dave Driemeier. Dave died on September 23, 2020. He was the husband of Carol Driemeier and brother-in-law of Richard Heidbreder.

The family of Albin Linsenbardt. Albin died on Monday, September 28, 2020 at St. Mary's hospital. His funeral will be October 3rd at St. Paul's church with family only attending due to the Covid-19 virus. The service can be viewed on FaceBook live at 1 p.m. or a link from the website afterward.

Dan Rockelman's family. Dan died in an automobile accident on September 13, 2020. A memorial service will be held at a later date and members of St. Paul's are invited to attend when the date is determined.

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
SEPTEMBER 6	27 / 193	\$2,760.00
SEPTEMBER 13	46 / 373	\$3,971.00
SEPTEMBER 20	31 / 213	\$1,781.37
SEPTEMBER 27	45 / 170+	\$1,071.00
Total	149 / 949 +	\$9,583.37



Caroline May Barker – Thanks be to God

Caroline was born to Matthew and Wendy Barker on September 2, 2020. She weighed 8 lbs. 4 ozs. and was 20 inches long.

I received a call soon after her birth from Grandpa Donald and a text with more information later from Grandma Becky. They were very excited...

Wendy sent me the photo below the next day. Caroline is beautiful and the family is doing great.

Thank you Lord for a wonderful child born into this family.



Ask the Pastor

Question: Dreams, do they mean anything? Is it possible God is directing our thoughts?

Answer: *"I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.."* <Joel 2:28-29> NIV

Dreaming is a natural occurrence during our time of rest. Although everyone dreams each night or time of sleep, our dreams are not always remembered. The most powerful dreams occur during what is known as REM sleep which is the Rapid Eye Movement stage of our dream time. But this is also the period of dreaming that is least likely to be remembered. Often it is that dream we are having just before waking up that we recall most vividly.

Some dreams are really weird or even scary. This may be due to the rational part of our brain being most relaxed while the emotional part of our brain is in overdrive and not in check.

But the question is, can our dreams be connected to God trying to tell us something? Is God talking to us in our dream world?

"Much dreaming and many words are meaningless." Says Ecclesiastes <5:7> This scripture seems to warn us not to put too much importance in the nonsensical dreams we have but other scriptures do show us that God has made known important details to his people in the past. So what should we believe?

If you have a dream, especially one that reoccurs, then you should refer to the scriptures and prayer to try to determine what significance the dream may have on your life. You may find that God is speaking to you in order that you may be given comfort, reassurance or just knowing that his presence is with you during a trying or difficult time.

For the most part, God does speak to you and he does this through the living word which you find in the scriptures of the Holy Bible. When you come before God to worship him in the community of believers you are surrounded by like minds along with the Holy Spirit and God is speaking to you through the readings and sermons you hear in his presence. God is speaking to you in the bread and the wine, his body and blood when you dine with him during communion. While you are confessing your sins and repenting, you are hearing his word of compassion and forgiveness.

But what if you are unable to go to church or watch it on Facebook Live or the television? What if you are isolated and God cannot reach you through his Holy Word written by the prophets and disciples as they heard it from God himself?

Then I believe the answer is YES, God does speak to you through your dreams or visions. There are many reported instances of people in Africa or jungles who have received God's messages in dreams and other ways where there is no way to read or hear the scriptures. There are reported miracles in these places where God's work is done to make himself known and to care for his people.

Even though you do not live in the deserts or jungles, you may find yourself with a dream that foretells something in your future or a message you need to know. If so, turn to the scriptures and prayer and look for your answer there. If it is a message from God, you will find it in his word and his presence.

Blessings to you,
Pastor David

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**"God's work. Our hands."
Sunday, Oct. 18**

JOIN US IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year our church — and our world — are living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has changed the way we worship and serve.

But the need is great, and God's church is at work!

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH-RUSSELLVILLE
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-LOHMAN**

Help families in need, seniors and disabled get prepared for winter.
Working outside, teams will aid with getting ready for winter.

- Yard work
- Mowing
- Raking
- Weeding
- Small tree removal
- Yard waste; branches and brush
- Gutter cleaning
- Power washing concrete and siding
- Small paint projects
- Minor deck or step repair

If you are unable to help with outside events, come help prepare a meal at the Parish Hall to get things started. Cooks and servers needed beginning after 8:45-9:45 and 10:00-11:00 services.

Working in teams, bringing and sharing tools, and enjoying the fellowship of good people.

Contact: Bob Ortvals 573-291-3421 (call or text) or Dana Frisby 573-338-3823 (call or text) at Trinity or Laurie Koestner 573-680-1278 at St. Paul's



"God's Work. Our Hands."

Service Projects Selection Deadline Oct. 11

If you are in need a senior or disabled and would like a helping hand to get ready for winter. We may be able to help with 40 plus workers!

Projects will be in Russellville and Lohman. Accepted projects determined by need and location, but we are looking for LOTS so please call!

Project teams will bring tools and labor. Supplies such as paint, trash bags, garden mulch, etc. will be provided by the recipient.

Pictures and stories may be collected. Let the team know upfront if you are not comfortable.

If you do not need help but know of someone who does? We would love to hear from you too.

To get you a project on the list-contact:

Trinity Lutheran Church Russellville

Bob Ortvals: Call or Text 573-291-3421

Dana Frisby: Call or Text 573-338-3823

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Lohman

Laurie Koestner: Call or Text 573-680-1278

God's Work, Our Hands T-Shirt Order:

**Trinity Lutheran
Church-Russellville**

**St. Paul's Lutheran
Church-Lohman**

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

**God's Work
Our Hands**

**A Day of
Community
Service**

- Lawn mowing
- Window washing
- Raking
- Chopping wood
- Clearing brush
- Painting
- Weeding
- Planting
- Power Washing
- Clearing Gutters

This year St. Paul's is partnering with Trinity in Russellville on October 18th. The ELCA will print our church name on the back of the classic, "God's Work, Our Hands" T-Shirt for us with a minimum order of 10 T-Shirts. This T-Shirt can be worn for any of our church events throughout the year. Cost for

T-Shirts is \$9.00 each. Shirts are available in Youth sizes small, medium and large; Adult sizes small through 5XL. The order deadline is October 2, 2020. The shirts will take 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Please contact Laurie Koestner to place an order at kwatskoestner@gmail.com or (573) 680-1278.

Congregational Council Meeting, September 14, 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 September 14, 2020 in the church basement with social distancing in compliance with Covid 19 guidelines. Present were council members Zola Finch, Laurie Koestner, Kathy Meller, Dan Tschirgi, Delores Vlach, Mitch Plochberger, and Becky Weber. Also present was Pastor David Viles, and Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe. Absent were Paula Linsenbardt and Scott Soell.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Viles, followed by a devotion on the power of forgiveness, and the importance of recognizing that life remains a gift and let's choose to act like it. Pastor cited the Bible verse from St. Paul to the Ephesians, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32. St. Paul reminds us that we were forgiven for all the angry, inhospitable and sinful things we do. While nailed to the cross Jesus prayed for us, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." The devotion Pastor David shared was taken from John O'Leary, author of "On Fire", who reminds us: Whatever happens in our daily struggles is short lived and easily overcome with God's help." Mr. O'Leary was severely burned at the age of nine when an explosion burned 100% of his body. He survived, to go on to marry and raise four children. Mr. O'Leary dedicates his life to giving talks on his experience, offering counsel to burn victims and providing hope in the midst of personal tragedies to victims and their families.

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

President Finch called on Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe to give the treasurer's report.

Pastor David reported a total of 45 miles for the month of August for the amount of \$25.88. A motion was made to approve the mileage for August of \$25.88 by Laurie Koestner, seconded by Kathy Meller, and passed via voice vote. Pastor David reported the following activities for August, 2020: Worship and Music meeting, two Zoom meetings on Global Leadership Summit, Church Council meeting, Lions Club meeting, Mutual Ministry meeting, Ministerial Alliance meeting, one staff member evaluation, one marriage counseling, one marriage planning discussion and phone conversations. Other activities include: picked up mail at post office, purchased AT&T hotspot and picked up at AT&T store, set up hotspot and tested with new video system, created September Epistle, emailed and postal mailed. He performed five in person, with online worship services, two of these were Communion Sundays.

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

Old Business: President Finch reports we will continue with our current Covid-19 procedures. President Finch reports Cross Training of paid staff positions are currently on hold.

Pastor David reports the transfer of members Amber Gardner, William, Emma and Dylan Gardner, and Rania Scheperle to Peace Lutheran Church. Pastor David reports on a new member requesting to join our church, Patty Duncan. Kathy Meller reports monetary donations are coming in, in lieu of our annual chili supper which is cancelled due to Covid-19.

New Business: None.

President Finch called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Koestner, seconded by Dan Tschirgi, and passed via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Pastor closed the meeting in leading the council members with The Our Father prayer.

Evangelism: Delores Vlach presented council with decision for our church to hold the annual Trunk or Treat. After discussion, it was decided our church will host this with Covid Precautions in place, to include social distancing, and those presenting treats to have treats pre- packaged to eliminate personal contact.

Pastor David presented council with possibility that our church members take on trash pickup previously done by Inge Gauck and her family. President Finch called for a motion that our church will perform aforementioned trash pickup. Said motion was offered by Dan Tschirgi, seconded by Delores Vlach, and passed via voice vote.

Delores then reported she reached out to church members to talk with them about our in person and online worship services. She also asked if they would like to be emailed or postal mailed our monthly Epistles. She reports the members were very receptive and thankful for her phone call. Council members thanked her for doing this. Delores will give a list of those members who want to be added to Pastor David.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi reports the new video system is working well. He reports he is working on improving the microphone for worship services. Pastor reported he developed a tutorial for viewing Facebook Live Stream worship services. Pastor was thanked for doing this.

Worship & Music: Kathy Meller reports her committee met in person this month. She reports that while our in person worship service attendance is down, our online viewing numbers are up. She reports our individual Holy Communion packets are working very well. Kathy offered a big thank you to President Finch and Pastor David for their hard work and dedication with church duties and worship services. Their committee would like for President Finch to continue playing for our services, and she accepted this request. Kathy reports there are members who want the Song Leader to resume singing the hymns during worship services. After discussion, it was decided the Song Leader will resume this duty in October, using Covid precautions. Church attendees will continue singing hymns silently as per Covid precautions. Kathy offers her committee wishes to offer a big Thank You to Kathryn Linsenbardt for laundering and mending all the acolyte robes.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner reports she will attend an Evangelism meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville in order that our church will join their church in working on the "Gods Work, Our Hands" project. Laurie reports she has volunteers to help teach Sunday School, and that Sunday School will resume September 20, 2020. She reports our church LYO will meet on Communion Sundays at 5:30pm in our church activity room, and adds no food will be served unless in individual packaging, in compliance with Covid Precautions.

Church Improvement: Mitch Plochberger reported on the following projects: Ongoing work on the church light pole, church doors, quotes for Parsonage roof repair, and emergency lighting. Mitch reports he replaced a damaged storm window upstairs, and applied silicone to another upstairs window with hopes of stopping leakage.

Stewardship: Paula Linsenbardt - No report

Mutual Ministry: Scott Soell, absent. Pastor David reports Staff Evaluation reports are complete and went well. He also reports Background checks are in progress.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The September 8th Mobile went really good even with the rain showers at the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot in Russellville. We had 15 volunteers and stayed busy serving 113 families with 385 people in those families. Some of the food items are as listed: apples, blueberries, cantaloupe, cauliflower, grapes, green peppers, lettuce, onions, oranges, potatoes, zucchini, bags of tortilla chips, Boom Chicka

Pop (sea salt popcorn), barbecue potato crisps, mac and cheese potato sticks, milk, and frozen chicken patties. Thanks to all the volunteers who help with this worthy community project. From the Lohman Lions Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Truck will be October 13th at 1:30 P.M.

WELCA – Chili Supper

Reminder, our annual Chili Supper has been canceled this year and requests have been sent asking for donations to supplement the lost revenue this event raises to support people in need.

WELCA is grateful for the generosity of this congregation for the donations that have been received, in lieu of the Supper. If you haven't had an opportunity to give toward this ministry and would like to, please send your donation to St. Paul's WELCA at P.O. Box 15, Lohman, MO 65053. or contact Marlene Carlson or Kathy Meller.



Irlee & Virginia Linhardt celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on September 13, 2020.

Normally they would have celebrated big, going to the lake and having dinner at a favorite restaurant. But that wasn't meant to be during this year of the Virus.

But they asked to tell all of you how thankful they are to have received a lot of cards, calls, prayers and well wishes from our wonderful congregation. It made their day to know we were all thinking of them and helping them to celebrate as only St. Paul's church family is able to do. Blessings from Irlee and Virginia.



McDonald Twins

Earlier this summer we were praying for Kinsey McDonald who was trying to hold off on giving birth for a few more weeks.

Kinsey is the granddaughter of Sharon Wyss.

The twin girls were born on September 1st. Vera Elaine (left) was born at 7:50 am and weighed 4 lbs. 6 oz., 17 ½" in long, and Elyse Christen (right) was born at 7:52 am and weighed 4 lbs. 1.3 oz., 18 ½" in length. Keep these little ones in your prayers to be able to leave the hospital soon and go home with mom and dad.



October brings Fall colors to the Cemetery.

Rosemary Heidbreder and Audrey Bunch were out on a nice day to change out the flowers on the cemetery headstones at St. Paul's. They do such wonderful work in this mission to keep the cemetery beautiful and full of colorful flowers.

This year they brought additional help to make it even better. Big shout out and thank you to Mattson and Oliver and precious little Sloane. I think Sloane kept the boys pretty busy attending to her while the grandmas did the work in the cemetery. It definitely takes a village with that sweet and energetic little girl. These kids made my day.

Thank you Marvin Bubach – for brush hogging the Hill for the beautiful Fall we look forward to, and your granddaughter Kaylin’s wedding day.

The Wedding of the Year: Mr. and Mrs. Ethan and Kaylin McDonald.



Kaylin Bubach married Ethan McDonald on September 26th at St. Paul’s Church on the Hill. I have officiated at several weddings but this one had a flair that stood out and brought much joy to my heart and to all who gathered to celebrate this grand occasion.

In place of one of the traditional scriptures, I read a poem at the couple’s request titled, “Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog” by Taylor Mali: [Link Here](#) The second scripture was 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a,11,13. Amazingly, these two readings complimented each other well.

The wedding ceremony included a Unity Cross that reminds us when we meet at the foot of the cross we become one and cannot be separated.

After a magnificent full swooning kiss, the couple were presented to the assembly as husband and wife. Then true



to the nature of the rest of the wedding the recessional had the Groom Ethan carry the Bride Kaylin down the aisle over his shoulder. And the crowd went wild in cheers, laughter and shouts of joy. They were followed by prancing groomsman, best man and a twirling maid of honor (Abby), and Mama Stacy doing a little jig of

her own. Best wedding ever for this Preacher Man. Credit and admiration to Stacy Bubach, Abby Bubach and Nancy Thompson for the amazing work they did to make this a truly memorable occasion and all others who helped.



Trunk or Treat will be held this year on Saturday, October 31, 2020 in the parking lot of St. Paul's Church.



We will begin at 5:30 p.m. and stay until 7:00 p.m. This is the first activity we will be hosting since the start of the Covid-19 virus shut everything down in March.

If you would like to participate you may arrive 30 or 45 minutes prior to set up your car trunk or pick-up bed. Cars will be spaced 10 feet apart to keep as much social distance as possible between the families going from vehicle to vehicle.

We ask that candy and goodies be pre-packaged in separate bags or small sacks so that each one can be picked up without touching other bags or items. You may want to consider handing out each bag yourself and using a hand sanitizer often to show the parents with children you are being cautious and looking out for their families.

Special Offering Envelopes



The October 18th Special Offering is marked for 'Missions' and will go to Lutheran Disaster Response this year. As you know, there are many needs in this year of disaster after disaster and your response will make a difference in the life of someone or a family. Our Church Council will determine where the offering will go during our next meeting on October 12, 2020. They will look at the following options as

listed on the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response website: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>. Next month we will report the listed cause chosen.

- U.S. Wildfires
- Hurricane Response
- Coronavirus Disease
- U.S. Severe Storms
- U.S. Flooding

The Reformation Special Offering is marked for the Samaritan Center. They have worked extra hard meeting the needs of people affected by the coronavirus. Many have lost jobs and require the food and other needs supplied by this wonderful organization. Your help is a God send, literally. Thank you for all you do to reach out to those less fortunate.

