

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 65 No. 2

February - 2021

Pastor's Message

"In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets." Acts 3:18-21

This year, February will bring us the season of Lent which begins on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. The season of Lent is a time for us to consider how we have veered away from Jesus' teachings and turned to a worldly view that is enticing and seductive to our ways of greed and self-serving.

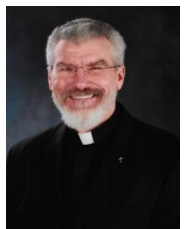
I find it interesting how the world celebrates Mardi Gras which in some places begins after the day of Epiphany, January 6th and continues through Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday which fall the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent and repentance.

This Mardi Gras period is often a time spent indulging in the pleasures of the world with excessive drinking, eating, and parties that fill the nights. It is as if the people know they are going to spend Lent in repentance and seeking forgiveness so they spend six weeks doing all the wrong things beforehand. Such is the lure of the world and its hold on our sinful nature as it tempts us in all the forbidden ways. In the scripture from the book of Acts noted above, Luke tells about the Apostle Peter who has just healed a man who was lame from birth. The man had been begging for alms but Peter instead said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk."

As he and the apostle John stand in Solomon's Portico of the great temple in Jerusalem, the Jews run to them in utter astonishment. Peter reminds them of the choices they made. "But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses." Then he tells them the good news, "Now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

This then for us also is the good news, even though we fall victim to the temptations of the world, our sins are wiped out through Jesus' work on the cross and our repentance. Thanks be to God.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Glen & Donita Stubinger 1973
- 14 Pastor David & Donna Viles 1981 **40 Years**
- 14 Daniel & Paige Olsen 2020
- 24 Patty & Scott Duncan 2014
- 27 Peter & Susan Neenan 1989

Joan Stubinger: Sends a special 'Thank You' to everyone who sent cards, flowers, food and the many calls of encouraging words and concern for my health. I am especially thankful for all the prayers and God's answer of healing and comfort. You all lifted my spirits during these past months and I thank God for having you in my life.

Condolences and prayers for Mark and Kathy Meller and family of Pat Meller who died January 31, 2021

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
JANUARY 3	06 / 171	\$745.00
JANUARY 10	07 / 237	\$3,860.00
JANUARY 17	15 / 132	\$1,725.97
JANUARY 24	08 / 148	\$1,080.00
JANUARY 31	08 / 124	\$725.00
Total	44 / 812	\$8,135.97

Special Gifts Included:

Thank you:

Doug and Julie Carel - \$600.00 to be used for AT&T Hot-Spot connection for streaming the worship services and other services at St. Paul's.

In Addition:

Initial Offering Envelopes total to date: \$249.00

Gertrude Strobel Memorials

St. Paul's Church	\$ 950.00
St. Paul's Cemetery	\$1,320.00
WELCA Kitchen Fund	<u>\$ 175.00</u>
Total to date:	\$2,445.00

Thank you Harry Thompson for the loan of a FM Transmitter. We are now broadcasting on 104.1 FM and a test on January 30, 2021 showed it was available in the church parking lot and most homes in Lohman.

Special Offerings

Please remember to send your offerings for Ash Wednesday and the five Lenten Wednesday's during the month of February.

These offerings benefit Oaks Indian Center and the ELCA Hunger Appeal.



Continued prayers for healing and comfort.

Rose Strobel, Harry Thompson, Julie Carel, baby Jane Grimm, Vanessa Pyatt, Donna Viles, Chris Russell, Pat Collins, Mike & Carma Anderson, and Penberthy family..

Ask the Pastor

Question: The genealogy of Jesus is recorded by both Matthew and Luke but they are very different. Which one is correct?

Answer: Both! Well that's confusing. You can read the genealogies in Matthew chapter one and in Luke chapter three.

Matthew was writing to the Jewish people to help them understand that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. So his focus is to prove that Jesus came from the correct lineage going back to King David and on to Abraham. Since Abraham was the 'Father' of the Hebrew people, Matthew's goal is to show Jesus came from the original founder of the people who was called by God. The Messiah was foretold to come from the Jewish line of Abraham and also the line of King David. Matthew traces Jesus' genealogy through his 'legal' father Joseph, Jesus' paternal genealogy.

Luke on the other hand is speaking to a broader Greek audience who are looking toward Jesus as the 'Perfect Human Man'. Luke then traces Jesus' genealogy through Mary, his maternal genealogy. Going through Jesus' actual mother, he can rightfully claim to be fully human and the redeemer of humanity. Luke records the genealogy back to Abraham just as Matthew did but continues on back to Adam and God himself.

- Both lines share some of the same ancestors such as Abraham and King David.
- Matthew goes through King David's son Solomon.
- Luke goes through King David's son Nathan.
- Both genealogies are correct as far as can be determined but they are different only in the paternal and maternal lineage genealogies they follow.
- They both trace back to Abraham and King David, but through different sons of King David.
- Matthew's paternal line lists the names of several women including Mary in the genealogy whereas Luke's maternal line does not, even Mary.

MATTHEW 1:2-16: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

LUKE 3:23-38: Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli, son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Melchi, son of Jannai, son of Joseph, son of Mattathias, son of Amos, son of Nahum, son of Esli, son of Naggai, son of Maath, son of Mattathias, son of Semein, son of Josech, son of Joda, son of Joanan, son of Rhesa, son of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, son of Neri, son of Melchi, son of Addi, son of Cosam, son of Elmadam, son of Er, son of Joshua, son of Eliezer, son of Jorim, son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Simeon, son of Judah, son of Joseph, son of Jonam, son of Eliakim, son of Melea, son of Menna, son of Mattatha, son of Nathan, son of David, son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon, son of Amminadab, son of Admin, son of Arni, son of Hezron, son of Perez, son of Judah, son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham, son of Terah, son of Nahor, son of Serug, son of Reu, son of Peleg, son of Eber, son of Shelah, son of Cainan, son of Arphaxad, son of Shem, son of Noah, son of Lamech, son of Methuselah, son of Enoch, son of Jared, son of Mahalaleel, son of Cainan, son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.

Church In-Person Worship has been Reinstated

The church council members met via email on Sunday, January 31, 2021 and voted to reinstate worship services for in-person gatherings with Covid-19 guidelines in place. We will continue to be seated six feet apart between families. Masks are encouraged and for now we will not pass the offering plate or have children sermons or Sunday school. Singing is also discouraged although verbal responses are okay, especially with a mask.

[Use your own judgement](#) if you are concerned about gathering in person. We have the FM transmitter working now and you can listen from your vehicle in the parking lot on station 104.1 FM. We are also committed to continue broadcasting live and recorded on Facebook, and will do so even after the pandemic is over. So you have three options available now to attend worship services.

Congregational Council Meeting, January 11, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, Church Council Secretary

A Congregational Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Dan Tschirgi at 6:05 pm on Monday January 11, 2021 in the church basement with social distancing in compliance with Covid 19 guidelines. Present were council members, Dan Tschirgi, Kathy Meller, Delores Vlach, Mitch Plochberger, and Laurie Koestner. Also present were Pastor David Viles, and Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe. Absent were Paula Linsenbardt, Becky Weber, Zola Finch and Scott Soell.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor David, followed by a devotion on Isaiah 46:4, "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

It's been a tough ten months and we have all struggled with the virus, being apart from one another, staying home and the political situation. Sometimes it seems the best option is to just give up, quit and run away. But then we hear God's promise, "I am he who will sustain you."

The truth is we were never able to handle anything in our lives by our self. Without God to sustain us, and nurture us, we would have gone off the deep end long ago. In this message we have received from the prophet Isaiah, we can rest knowing that God is always with us and will never leave us. He says, "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he...who will sustain you."

So when you feel like you just can't take another step, remember you are not alone and God will rescue you and carry you while providing for all of your needs.

Vice President Tschirgi called for approval of the previous council meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Kathy Meller, seconded by Delores Vlach, and passed via voice vote.

Dan Tschirgi called on Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe to give the treasurer's report. The current month and end of year finished with a positive balance which is always good. A discussion concerning special gifts ensued with reference made to "Our Governing Document" B12.05.02. and B12.05.03 found on pages 18 and 19. Monetary gifts received with a designated purpose must be presented to the church council for that purpose to be approved. If the purpose is not approved the gift will go into the general account. If a current budgeted line item or dedicated account exists, then a gift may be given to that existing account without council approval. The Financial Recording Secretary will forward those requests to the Treasurer.

Pastor David reported a total of zero miles for the month of December. Pastor David reported the following activities for December 2020: Funeral for Gertrude Strobel, Baptism of Caroline Barker, Worship and Music meeting, Church Council meeting, City Council, and Lions Club. Pastor performed eight personal visits, one office visit, and multiple conversations, counseling and phone calls to church members. Pastor created, emailed and post mailed the January Epistle. Pastor performed five worship services with online broadcasts using Facebook Live and limited in-person attendance, three communion and two non-communion services. Pastor also performed three mid-week online pastoral

messages using Facebook Live. Pastor David started posting an online message to St. Paul's on the Hill Facebook page. These are Bible verses on photos he has taken or backgrounds he created. Pastor will also post messages from the ELCA occasionally. Pastor asks for the congregation and friends to check these daily messages and either like and or comment.

Dan Tschirgi then called for the council member committee reports.

Evangelism: Delores Vlach reports she and her committee sent out 136 Christmas cards to the congregation as listed in the 2020 directory. Thanks to Pastor for creating address labels and to Marie Scheperle for helping to address and sign the cards. We received several positive comments for these Christmas cards.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi reports work is being done on acquiring FM radio transmission of our church services for anyone who would like to hear the service from the parking lot in their vehicles. We currently have three additional volunteers to help run the video equipment for worship services and would appreciate two or three more volunteers. A discussion arose concerning the dedication plaque for the Streaming Equipment donated by the Linsenbardt family. This plaque and others are scattered in the church, so the idea was mentioned to gather them in one place such as the Narthex where everyone can easily see them.

Worship and Music: Kathy Meller reports the February 2021 hymns have been selected via email suggestions. With Lenten season approaching we may change the worship setting. Ash Wednesday is February 17th and if we are still doing a virtual only worship the imposition of ashes cannot be done. We may consider options during our next meeting.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner said the committee did not meet so there is no report.

Church Improvement: Mitch Plochberger thanks the people who volunteered for individual work assignments in place of a fall work day. The urinal in the men's restroom located in the fellowship hall has been replaced. The water fountain is not working and needs to be replaced. The parsonage roof repair is still being looked at and insurance has been received but will only cover a portion. The temperature in the sanctuary is cool on Sundays and Mitch will check the thermostat.

Stewardship and Finance: Paula Linsenbardt, absent. No report.

Mutual Ministry: Scott Soell, absent. Pastor David reported Scott Soell will remain on the committee as a regular member. We had four people who were scheduled to go off due to term limits, but with the council's suspension of term limits in section C13.04 of our Governing Document, two members, Jacklyn Wood and Roger Pennell agreed to remain on the committee for an additional term of two years. We do need one more member to serve and someone to volunteer for the chairperson position on council.

Old Business: Laurie Koestner made a motion to continue virtual only services and the motion was seconded by Kathy Meller. This decision is considered at each monthly council meeting. Cross Training of paid staff positions is currently on hold. No report on Security camera.

New Business: The annual meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2021 which will be held virtually using WebEx. Instructions have been emailed to all who have an email address. The meeting will also be broadcast on FaceBook Live but participation may not be possible or limited.

Vice President Tschirgi called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Kathy Meller, seconded by Mitch Plochberger, and passed via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm. Pastor closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The January 12th Mobile Food Pantry was held on a sunny 50 degree afternoon with some wind, serving 117 families with 393 people in those families. Some of the items given out were fresh produce boxes containing blueberries, cucumbers, green beans, leaf lettuce and radishes, other items egg nog, white milk, chocolate milk, cake mix cups, pudding cups, pizza, sugar cookies, bags of grapes heads of lettuce, bags of pears. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, and from St. Paul's Lutheran were Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi and Becky Weber. Next mobile Food Pantry will be February 9th at 1:30 P.M.

St. Paul's 2021 Directory: Bill and Erika Gerth are busily doing updates to the St. Paul's Directory for 2021. Please let us know as soon as possible about any changes in your personal information: address, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. We also need Council Representatives for the various committees to let us know the composition of their committees for the coming year. In order to meet our internal deadline for getting the final version to the printer, we need your input **no later than Friday, February 12th**. Some of you have already given us the information we need and for that we thank you! In order to make the Directory as accurate as possible, we also need the assistance of everyone else. Please send updates to: "erikagerth@embarqmail.com" or call us at 573-635-6681

Adopt A Highway: The family of Inge Gauck has taken care of the trash and litter on Hwy D for the past few years. Inge let us know she and her family were no longer able to keep up with it and asked if the members of St. Paul's would like to take it over. Pastor contacted our people and asked if there was anyone interested in doing this job.

The following have responded to adopt the stretch of [Route D from the intersection of 'C' to Kim's Hair Salon in Lohman](#).

- Jackie Wood
- Gus Fischer
- Jerry Koestner
- Frank Pascoe
- Ruth Stubinger and daughter Abby
- Pastor David

Inge has contacted MODOT to release this section to us and have the signage at both ends replaced with St. Paul's name as the benefactor of this project.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please let Pastor David know so he can get you on the list. The more people working the easier and quicker it can be done. Although MODOT suggests this to be a quarterly event, Pastor anticipates twice a year after having watching the accumulation of litter over the past few months.

Congratulations Tyler Hager



Tyler graduated from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO. in December with a Bachelors of Science degree in Cyber Security.



Jean Fink is very proud.



He took his Oath of Office for the United States Navy on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. you can see the ceremony on FaceBook at: [Click Link Here](#) You do not have to be a member to see this video.

Tyler left on Saturday, January 30, 2021 for Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.



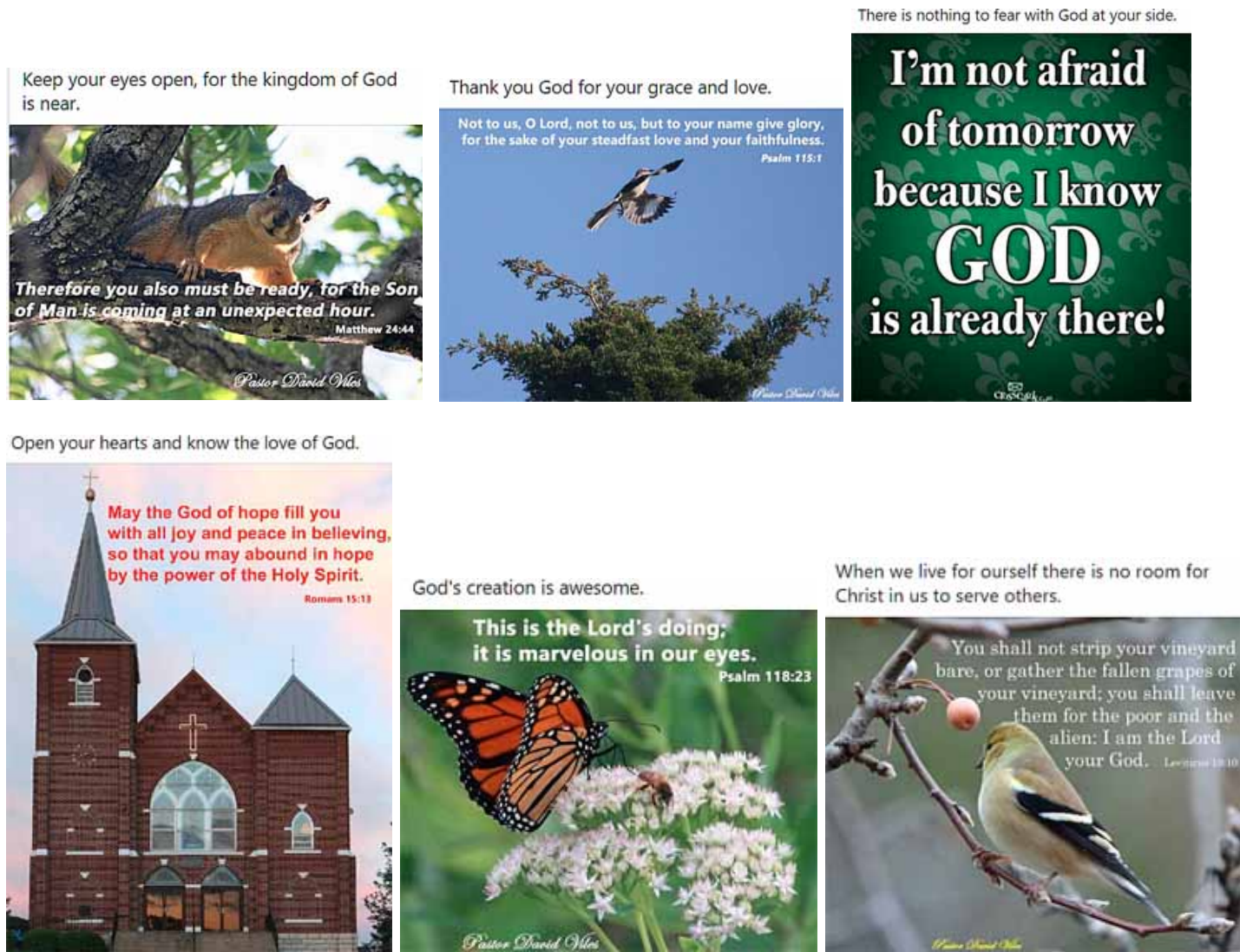
After completing OCS his next assignment will be Navy Flight School in Pensacola, Florida where he hopes to become a Naval Aviator.



The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran church wishes you God's speed Tyler and a safe journey to fulfill your dreams and keep America safe.

Daily Devotions:

At the end of December 2020, Pastor David started posting a daily scripture with a photo he has taken with his camera or something from the ELCA or other religious sites he monitors. If you have not kept up with these you may begin by going to the St. Paul's FaceBook page located at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill> This is a public site so you do not have to be a member of FaceBook in order to see these posts or the weekly worship services. Here are examples of previous posts of these daily devotions / scriptures.



If you do have a FaceBook account and watch St. Paul's worship services or these posts in the future, Please leave a comment and/or click the 'Like' or 'Heart' icon to let us know you are watching. Also contact Pastor David if you have a question, suggestion or other comment. We often get hundreds of views on our posts and services but only a few engagements to let us know who is watching and maybe your opinions of what you see.

Schedule for Online Services:

Services are at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings on FaceBook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

FM Station 104.1 in the church parking lot and many homes in Lohman, MO. area at 9:00 a.m. Sundays

All services can be viewed at any time on our St. Paul's website: <http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org> just scroll down to the middle section and click on the service of your choice under "In Case You Missed It."

Below that is another section for current and past bulletins.

Blessings in Christ to everyone, everywhere...

Special Project Fund Drive: Parsonage Roof Replacement

A fund drive has been approved for the replacement of the church parsonage with a metal roof similar to what is currently on the church building. The parsonage roof is old and has seen damage from hail storms in the past year. Shingles are being blown off during high winds here on the hill and contractors have been called out to replace them. The amount being raised is \$11,395.22 after insurance payments although this amount could change if underlying damage is found to the main structure or other concerns. See the report from Mitchell Plochberger in the minutes below.

If you are able, and would like to contribute to this fund, please send your tax deductible gift made out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and a notation in the memo field for (Parsonage Roof). Checks can be sent to P.O. Box 15, Lohman, MO. 65053. Your help is needed and very much appreciated.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA Annual Congregational Meeting January 17, 2021 Summary

The meeting was held after Worship and called to order by President Zola Finch at 10:18 am. The 2021 Annual meeting was held via in person for council members and for those who do not have online access, and via online attendance using the WebEx electronic format and FaceBook live format in compliance with the Covid 19 guidelines. In addition to seven council members and Pastor David, there were seven 15 total member in person. There were 22 people attending online for a total of 37 which constituted a quorum of participating members.

Committee chairperson summarized their annual reports and directed attention to the published full reports located in the annual report package which was sent to everyone by email or postal mail.

Council members Kathy Meller, Dan Tschirgi, and Delores Vlach agreed to serve a second term. A motion was put forth by Kathryn Linsenbardt, and seconded by Mitch Plochberger. President Finch called for any objections, there were no objections. Motion carried.

Mitch Plochberger, chairperson of Church Improvement, referred the attendees to the report as printed in the Annual Report, page 16. Mitch informed the attendees that he obtained three bids for the replacement of the parsonage roof with a new metal roof due to damage sustained in the hail storm in 2020. His committee recommends going with Excel Roofing which is a metal roof of 24 gauge with a forty-year warranty plus a five-year additional warranty against any leakage, and is the lowest of the three bids. The final amount after insurance is \$11,395.22, which may be subject to change. President Finch called for a Special Project to take donations towards this amount and will ask Kay Pascoe, Church Treasurer, to create a special account for contributions made towards the parsonage roof repair. President Finch called for any discussions or questions. Seeing none, she called for a motion to accept the bid from Excel Roofing, and to create a Special Project to enable acceptance of donations towards the cost of the parsonage roof replacement. A motion was put forth by Richard Heidbreder, seconded by Kathryn Linsenbardt and passed via voice vote.

A complete copy of the minutes can be read at this <LINK>. If you do not have access to the Internet please contact Pastor David or the church secretary to pick up a copy or have one mailed to you.