

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 65 No. 4

April - 2021

Pastor's Message

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." Romans 12:4-5

During the season of Lent, we were unable to gather as we normally do in the Fellowship Hall with a Lenten theme and music while singing the Holden Evening Prayer. It is a special time to gather in community with each other and the church around the world and be in community with God and each other. Instead this year I held an online devotional each Wednesday during the Lenten period which was centered around 'Community' even though we were not physically together.

The first week was 'Community with creation.' We heard about Jesus calming a storm after being aroused from sleep in the rear of the boat. Jesus is the Word and God created all things through the Word as we have read in Genesis. Humans also were created and are in community with creation as a part of it. And God saw all that he had made and it was good.

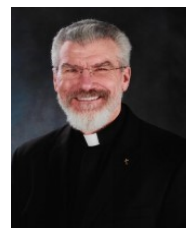
The second week was about 'Community with the Saints.' God chose Abram who he renamed Abraham to be the father of a nation of God's people. Abraham believed through faith that God would do all that he said. All of the people who have gone before and are no longer here have handed down to us a strong belief and faith in God and Jesus' work on the cross and resurrection. We are in community with all those saints who have nurtured our faith.

The third week was about 'Community with our neighbors.' We heard the story of neighbors bringing someone to Jesus to heal. The only way to do that was to lower him through the roof. I have watched this congregation for the past three and a half years do whatever it takes to care for our neighbors.

The fourth week was about 'Community with those on the margins.' These are the ones who are very poor, homeless, hungry, neglected, and shunned. When we read the Bible, we see Jesus helping all of these people who are in need but neglected by normal society. Our world tells us to take care of ourselves and not worry about those who can't take care of themselves. But Jesus tells us there is another way, a better way, and gives us plenty of examples to follow. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Let us come together in community with the marginalized.

The fifth and final week was about 'Community with Christ.' We hear the story of James and John, the Zebedee brothers, asking to be in power at his right and left hand. The world and the call of its temptations is the place of power struggles that compels man against man and woman against woman. Jesus teaches that we must be servants to all just as he has been. When we are in community with Christ, we are one in his name and follow him.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus, Pastor David



[Note: These services are still listed on the Website if you missed them.](#)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

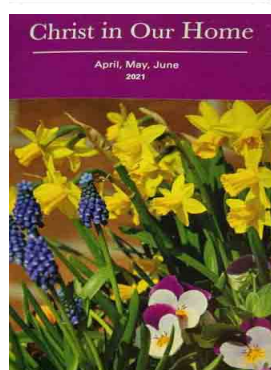
- 1 Donald Weber
- 1 Wilfred Plochberger
- 2 Bill Stubinger
- 4 Patricia Russell
- 4 Deb Wriedt
- 4 Julie Walters
- 8 Kara Richart
- 11 Laura Koestner
- 11 Mattson Stoermer
- 13 Devin Koestner
- 13 Paul Schiller
- 15 Ellen Strobel
- 16 Landin Thompson
- 16 Todd Walters
- 17 Michelle Collins
- 17 Mitchell Plochberger
- 19 Noah Stubinger
- 20 Leon Pistel
- 22 Diane Kalaf
- 22 Christie Murphy
- 23 Chris Russell
- 26 Angie Bracher
- 27 Garrett Hager
- 29 Kay Pascoe
- 29 Kyle Freiner

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
MARCH 7	58 / 159	\$3,471.97
MARCH 14	71 / 415	\$2,490.00
MARCH 21	84 / 149	\$2,238.00
MARCH 28	90 / 150	\$2,265.00
Total	303 / 873	\$10,464.97

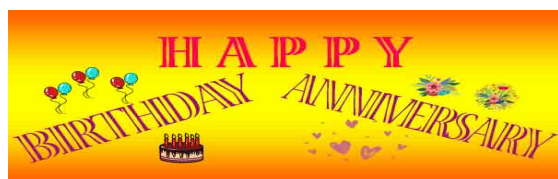
In Addition:

Ash Wednesday Envelopes total to date: \$245.00

Lenten Envelopes: \$910.00 to date.



The devotion books have arrived for the second quarter. You can pick them up in the Narthex.



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Shawn & Sherrie Williams 1999
- 18 Matt & Wendy Barker 2015
- 18 Jerry & Laurie Koestner 1992
- 21 Luke & Miranda England 2018
- 23 Charles & Wanda Ferrell 1982
- 23 Michael & Dana Moeller 1994
- 25 Doug & Julie Carel 1987
- 28 Melvin & Joan Stubinger 1968

Ellen Strobel: Sends a special 'Thank You' to everyone who sent cards, calls, and the many calls of encouraging words and concern in support of her daughter's health concerns.

Marie Fischer: Please keep Marie in your prayers for healing and recovery after her fall.

Special Offerings



Please remember to send your offerings for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.



These offerings benefit Heisinger Bluffs Benevolence Fund which provides for the people in our communities.

Continued prayers for healing and comfort.

Marie Fischer, Cheryl Perry, Ken Hawkins, Tom Sperling, Jennifer Miller, Rose Strobel, Vanessa Pyatt, Julie Carel, Chris Russell, Donna Viles, baby Jane Grimm, all our family, friends and neighbors with coronavirus and the hope of getting a vaccine.

ELECTION DAY – APRIL 6TH

St. Paul's Church will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for you to VOTE on the issues at hand.

Ask the Pastor

Question: Who are all those women named Mary in the Bible?

Answer: Mary was a common name during the time of Jesus. The name comes from Miriam, you may remember that Moses had a sister named Miriam.

The New Revised Standard Version lists 48 while the New International Version lists 52. No wonder it is so confusing. There are six different women named Mary in the Bible. Let's take a look.

1. Mary, wife of Joseph and mother of Jesus. She was a peasant girl from a backwater town named Nazareth. Thirty years later a man named Nathanael would say to his brother Philip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Mary did and from her womb came Jesus the Christ, the savior of the world.
2. Mary Magdalene, was a woman from the town of Magdala which means "tower" or "castle" and it was a thriving and populous town during the time of Jesus ministry. It was located about three miles from Capernaum on the coast of Galilee. It was known for Dye works and primitive textile factories which made the community wealthy. It may be that Mary of Magdala was connected to the industries which gave her the means to support Jesus' ministry. Jesus healed her of seven demons that came out of her. (Luke 8:1-3). She has been falsely accused of being a prostitute but there is no evidence to support that allegation.
3. Mary of Bethany, was the sister of Lazarus who was raised from the dead. She loved to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to his teachings, much to the consternation of her sister Martha who kept busy with work around the house. Six days before Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time, he stops at the home of Lazarus. This Mary takes a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard and anoints Jesus' feet. For this Judas is angry saying it was wasted but Jesus commends her for the loving act of anointing him before his burial.
4. Mary, the mother of James and Joses. We know very little about this woman except she is the mother of James the Less called so to distinguish him from the more well-known James Zebedee, brother of John. Similar to Magdalene, this Mary also had wealth and followed Jesus and supported his ministry. Some writers identify her as "the other Mary" (Matthew 27:61), or as the wife of Cleopas or Alphaeus (Matthew 10:3; Luke 24:18), or as a sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
5. Mary, the mother of John Mark is only mentioned once in Acts 12:12. It was to her home that Peter went after his Miraculous escape from prison (Acts 12:6-11). Mary opened her home to Christian followers even though the people were be persecuted at the time by the Roman soldiers.
6. Mary of Rome. We know least of this woman of all those counted. We only hear about her in Paul's personal greetings of twenty or so people who worked with him to share the good news. Mary is the only one of the group with a Jewish name. (Romans 16:3-15). Mary was an evangelist employed in making the gospel known in the same way as the Salvation Army uses women today. These godly women exerted their influence in every possible way to aid Paul in making Christ known.

Did I miss any? If so, let me know... Blessings to you, *Pastor David*

Congregational Council Meeting, March 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, Church Council Secretary

A Congregational Council meeting was called to order by President Zola Finch at 6:05 p.m. on Monday March 8, 2021. Present at council meeting were council members President Zola Finch, Kathy Meller, Dan Tschirgi, Delores Vlach, Mitch Plochberger, Jana Thompson and Becky Weber. Also present were Pastor David Viles and Council Treasurer, Kay Pascoe. Absent was Paula Linsenbardt.

Pastor David opened the meeting with a prayer, then shared a devotion on Philippians 4-7.

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Everyone, everywhere has had a lot to deal with during the past year. Finally, we are beginning to see some relief from the Covid-19 virus with many people getting the vaccines. Many have begun to relax a little and let the fear have less control over their every thought and action.

St. Paul's restarted in-person attendance again on February 7th and we had 23 people show up for that Sunday. We were closed due to weather the second Sunday but then had 65 people attend on the following Sunday, and 58 on February 28th. These numbers are pushing our capacity for social distancing and Easter Sunday is coming soon which makes us a little anxious with higher numbers expected.

Zola and I spoke about it a little yesterday and decided, 'what can we do?' and I think that is the correct strategy. The truth is we as humans are unable to change events that may happen. If we live every moment confined to our bed, we would still experience problems.

So, we live life with as much joy as possible as God intended. Only God is in control and whatever happens in this world happens. 'What can we do?'

Paul gives us the answer, "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus..." Thanks be to God.

President Finch called for approval of the previous council meeting minutes. A motion to approve the February 8, 2021 council meeting minutes was made by Delores Vlach, seconded by Kathy Meller, and passed via voice vote.

President Finch called for Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe's report. Kay presented the financial report.

Pastor David reported the following activities for February, 2021: Worship and Music email meeting, Church Council meeting, City Council, Lions Club, and Ministerial Alliance. Pastor performed one home visit, one church visit, three phone visits, and multiple phone conversations, counseling and prayers. Pastor held one communion service via Facebook livestream only, two non-communion, and one communion worship services, in person and with Facebook livestream. Pastor also held one mid-week Lenten devotion. Pastor prepared, printed and emailed worship bulletins, updated the website with bulletin and video services, presented financial report at the ministerial alliance meeting, posted a daily photo with Bible verse and message on Church Facebook, and created, emailed and had our secretary postal mail the March Epistle. President Finch commended Pastor David on the fabulous Epistle he created.

President Finch then called for the committee reports.

Evangelism: Delores Vlach reports her committee will not serve refreshments at the April 6, 2021 election due to concerns of the Covid virus. She reports her committee is considering having fellowship hour following July 4th worship service but will revisit this at a later date to determine Covid recommendations put forth by the Cole County Health department.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi reports the FM radio transmission is working well, and people should be able to pick up the Sunday worship services on their FM radios, on station 104.1. Dan requests additional volunteers to help with Sunday worship video services. Volunteers will be adequately trained. President Finch was thanked for the donation of the new computer rack/desk to be used for livestream video services.

Worship and Music: Kathy Meller reports Sutton Loesch will be baptized on March 14, and Phillip Soell and his sisters, Madison and Mackenzie will be baptized on March 21. She reports there will be in-person worship service on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Kathy adds we will begin using Setting 8 after Easter.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner reports Sunday School re-opened on February 28, and there were two students in attendance, and there were six in attendance on March 7. She also reports there will be an Easter Egg hunt following Easter Service April 4. President Finch reports she will host a get together for middle school and high school students at her home with snacks and show the movie Jesus Christ Super Star, with John Legend and Alice Cooper, adding that Covid 19 precautions will be observed by all students and adults in attendance.

Church Improvement: Mitch Plochberger reports spring clean-up work day is set for April 10, and asks for volunteers to meet at church around 8:00 a.m., or whenever you can come. The downstairs water fountain has been replaced and is working well. The downstairs men's restroom urinal is in need of work. Gary Elliott worked on the furnace and it is working well. Mitch reports the sanctuary lights that are in need of repair are being worked on. He reports the Parsonage roof repair is a work in progress.

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

Mutual Ministry: Jana Thompson. Jana reports they did not meet this month due to snow. She reports her committee is still in need of one more committee member.

Old Business: President Finch reports we are in need of people willing to be cross trained for staff paid positions. Pastor David reports he can do the work of our church secretary if need be. President Finch reports there is no report/updates on security camera.

New Business: President Finch reports the new copier/scanner has been ordered, and paid for in its entirety by two church members who wish to remain anonymous. The copier will have the same type of service agreement as the current one with payment per budget line item. President Finch presented to council members the possibility of placing a church lock box in the narthex for church donations, that will remain in place at all times. After discussion, it was decided Pastor David will email congregants to determine if anyone is opposed to this idea.

President Finch called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Koestner, seconded by Jana Thompson, and passed via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Pastor closed the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The weather was great for the March 9th Mobile Food Pantry truck to be in Russellville at Trinity Lutheran parking lot. The volunteers served 134 families with 415 people in those families. Some of the items given out are as listed: frozen assorted steaks, chicken, hot dogs, bacon, rope sausage and pizzas. Fresh produce, a box of vegetables, bags of lettuce, potatoes, also popcorn, eggs, chips, and organic milk. Thanks to the volunteers Alberta and Gary Zumwalt from Lohman Lions club, Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi and Becky Weber from St. Paul's Lutheran. Next mobile Food Pantry will be April 13th at 1:30 P.M.

Schedule for in person and Online Services: 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings in the sanctuary or on FaceBook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill> and on **FM Station 104.1** in the church parking lot and many homes in the Lohman, MO. area at 9:00 a.m. Sundays.

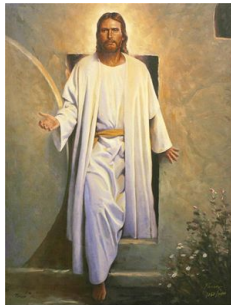
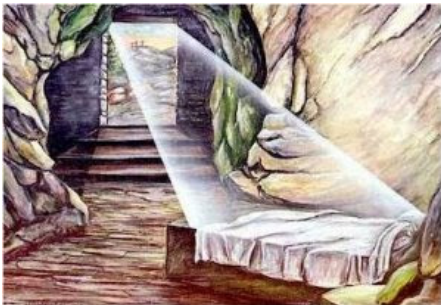
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services

April 1st at 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday. We will worship together at St. Paul's with Communion and the Stripping of the Altar. All are welcome to join in person, FaceBook Live, or in the parking lot listening on the radio tuned to FM 104.1

If you are in the parking lot please come in and get a communion packet or request someone to bring you one. If you are watching at home please have bread and wine or juice available to join in communion with our church family.

April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Good Friday. We will worship together at St. Paul's. All are welcome to join in person, FaceBook Live, or in the parking lot listening on the radio tuned to FM 104.1

April 4th at 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship and Easter Egg Hunt. Blessed & Happy Easter to you. Be sure to join us for the celebration of our Risen Lord and Savior, and then stay around to watch the children hunt for eggs filled with prizes and the excitement of their surprise and laughter.



New Church Mailbox

We have two addresses for St. Paul's Church. The most commonly used is P.O. Box 15 which is at the Post office here in Lohman. But we also have the physical address of the church which is 8618 Church Hill Drive. Occasionally we receive mail addressed to the physical address and apparently it confuses the people at the Post office so they put a sticker on it as 'incorrect address' and put it in the P.O. Box.

In late March, Pastor David installed a new mailbox for the church across the parking lot from the parsonage. He also added his own box next to it and one for Marie Schepeler.

Now, we can receive mail at both locations for the church and it is easier for Pastor and Marie to get their mail also. It is a Win / Win.

Daily Devotions:

Pastor David continues to post a daily scripture with a photo he has taken with his camera or something from the ELCA or other religious sites he monitors. This is a good way to begin your day.

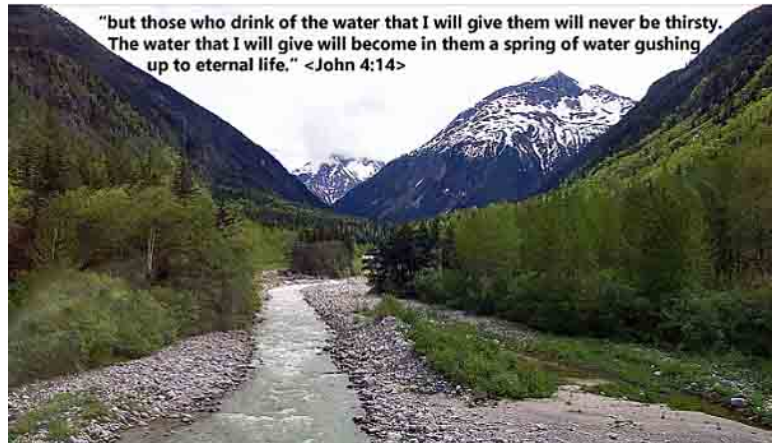
You can find these by going to the St. Paul's FaceBook page located at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill> This is a public site so you do not have to be a member of FaceBook in order to see these posts or the weekly worship services. If you do have a FaceBook account 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 comments.

EXAMPLES:

Our human nature is often to own it all without thought for others, that is the way the world would have us be. But Jesus teaches another way, to be hospitable or kind to everyone. I took this photo thinking how wonderful it would be if we could all share and enjoy the gift of life together. Go, and be Christ to others in Christ's name. Amen

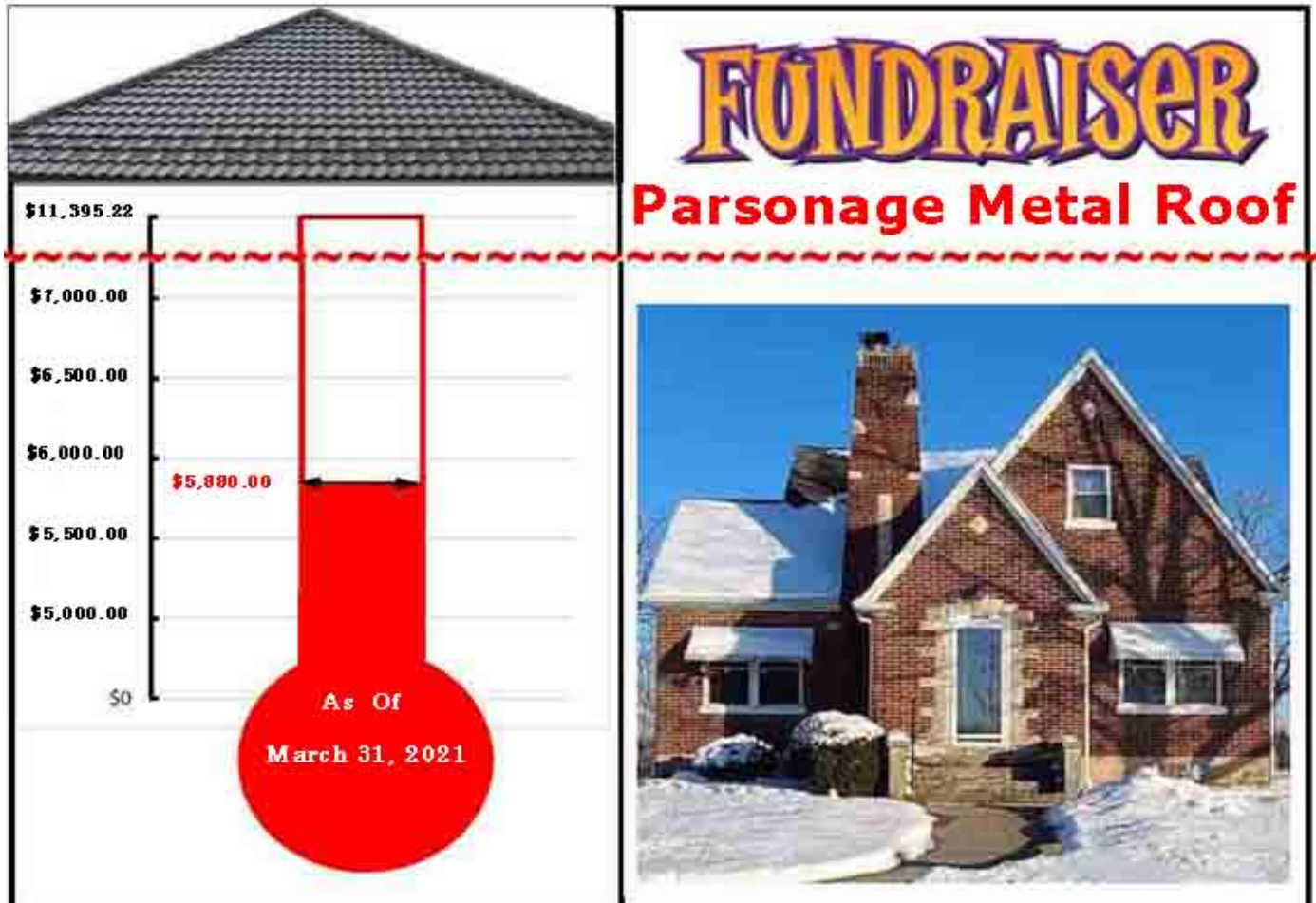


To a person dying of thirst, a cup of cold water is life for a while longer.
To a person dying of sin, a cup of God's word and faith in Jesus work on the cross is life for eternity.
Do not look for the temporary life of the world, look instead for the eternal life of Jesus the Christ.



Special Project Fund Drive: Parsonage Roof Replacement Currently \$5,880.00

The amount being raised is \$11,395.22 after insurance payments. 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, or 8618 Church Hill, Drive, Lohman, MO. 65053. Your help is needed and very much appreciated.



Baptisms in March

March 14, 2021 – Sutton Louise Loesch, daughter of Jake and Sonya Loesch and sister of Emmett,



was baptized. We had originally planned to baptize her on February 14th which was Valentine's Day but the weather did not cooperate and in person church attendance had to be canceled. But one month later it all came together and you can see how

excited Sutton and Pastor are in the first photo above. We had a wonderful time with God and the community of St. Paul's church.

March 21, 2021 – Another great day of baptisms and this time three from the wonderful family of



Scott and Vanessa Soell. Philip Scott Soell was born last summer and we were joyful to get him baptized on this day. We also were overjoyed to baptize his sisters, Madison Taylor Linnenbrink and Mackenzie Olivia Jo Linnenbrink. Pastor was thrilled to have these three around the font in the sacrament of baptism. These two big sisters are amazing children of God and members of St. Paul's church.



Abby Bubach is thankful for all who donated to her Polar Express team.

They raised \$319.00 for the Special Olympics. It was 41 degrees and didn't take long to get out of the water.

Thank you Zola Finch for hosting the movie night on Sunday, March 28th with Pizza and the show, **Jesus Christ SuperStar**