



Pastor's Message

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed;"

Proverbs 31:25-28

Mother's Day: Sunday, May 9, 2021



This photo is of my mom/grandmother Edna Honeycutt: born 1915, died 2000. She raised me and my twin brother from the time we were 3 weeks old. When she took us in to love and care for she was divorced and 5 months pregnant. She would give birth to a little boy four months later.

Being single with three babies was not a common occurrence in the mid-fifties. Mom had a lot to deal with and many obstacles to overcome. She worked nights, self-employed cleaning restaurants after hours. She had her own equipment including a heavy floor buffer she used to clean and wax the floors.

Often she would take the three of us with her and make us a bed in one of the table booths where we slept to the sounds of her cleaning and the hum of the buffer as she cleaned the floors around us.

Returning home in the early morning hours she would sleep for as long as she could and then get up and take care of me and my brothers. I remember sitting in front of the TV watching Captain Kangaroo and other favorite children's shows while mom cat napped on the couch nearby when she was able.

I called her mommy and I think of her often, remembering the sacrifices she made and the hard work she did to raise three little babies using cloth diapers, sitting up with one of us three when we were sick, giving us baths, and feeding us scrumptious meals.

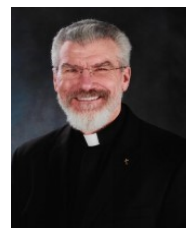
I also remember the times when she would sit on the sofa with us and read from the big black book and tell us stories about Jesus and all the wonderful things our Lord had done for us. While she told those stories and read from the Bible, I remember the tears that would flow down her face and drop onto the pages.

Mommy was a strong woman and respected by all who knew her. She was faithful in our Lord's love, compassion, and knew He was with her and her children. He was her help.

I think of her often, and call her Blessed.

Happy Mother's Day to all the women who love their babies and trust in God to give them strength, dignity, and laughter with wisdom and faith.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus, Pastor David



FINANCIAL UPDATE

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
APRIL 4	158 / 161	\$5,360.00
APRIL 11	72 / 107	\$3,869.56
APRIL 18	74 / 117	\$ 785.00
APRIL 25	61 / 95	\$1,860.00
Total	365 / 480	\$11,874.56

In Addition:

Lenten Envelopes: \$920.00 for ELCA World Hunger
 Maundy Thursday & Good Friday: \$663.00 for Heisinger
 Bluffs Benevolence Fund.

Thank you to all for the Holy Week Services

Beautiful Music:
 Zola Finch on the Organ.
 Dan Tschirgi and Kathy Meller for Duets and Song leading.
 Dan Tschirgi for the wonderful Trombone Accompaniment.
 Lester and Kathryn Linsenbardt for beautiful flowers and Lilies.
 Laurie Koestner, Jahanna Koestner, Kaitlyn Finch and all helpers and those who donated for the Easter Video and amazing 400 egg hunt.
 Pastor David for all the extra services and a special Easter service.
 GOD for the many blessings we can never count and the perfect weather.

Continued prayers for healing and comfort.

Marie Fischer, Cheryl Perry, Tom Sperling, 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.

Note: Pastor announced last Sunday there would be a National Day of Prayer in Russellville at the park pavilion on May 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.. This event has been canceled due to other events by the Ministerial Alliance Pastors. Pastor David plans to have an online prayer service at St. Paul's so look for an announcement on Facebook and it will also be posted afterward on the website.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Kent & Julie Nelson 1993
 6 Denny & Lori Linhardt 2000
 10 Kris & Laura Tuttle 2015
 15 Gus & Jeannette Fischer 1960
 16 Scott & Kelly Grunden 1992
 19 Chris & Elizabeth Russell 2001 **20 Yrs.**
 22 Marshall & Julie Griffin 2009
 23 Conor & Angela Tierney 2015
 23 Dan & Kim Tschirgi 1987
 25 Colin & Ruthann Woehrer 1968
 28 David & Karla Strobel 1977
 31 Bill & Erika Gerth 1960

Ask the Pastor

Question: Often we hear the Bible is "God's Word." What does that really mean?

Answer: The apostle John begins his gospel with the words: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* John 1:1-5

Our belief is that at one point there was nothing anywhere and there was no time. Nothing existed at all, not a single molecule or even an atom. That is hard to comprehend even as great and intelligent as we think we are.

In all of this nothingness, this void of no time and space we believe God was there.

Then we read in the first book of the Bible, Genesis 1:1, there was a beginning, a start, something new. "God created the heavens and the earth."

So how is it that God did this great thing? How did God create all things seen and unseen from nothingness? God said, "Let there be..." and it happened! God spoke the Word and all things came to be through his word. It was the Word that was with God, it was the Word that was God and "without him not one thing came into being."

God broke the silence of nothingness by speaking, with the Word. It is not Jesus speaking the words, it is Jesus being the Word through which all things came into being. It was through Jesus, the Word, that life happened. The Word created air, water, plants, animals, birds, fish and insects. Then in his own image, the Word created us, the beloved children to live and love and be in a relationship with him.

The Bible is filled with written letters that describe the works of God throughout the old testament. We learn of the many blessings that God provided for his beloved creation, his children made in his image through the Word.

We hear of his Word which makes covenants (promises) to us that he will always be with us and take care of us and that through the Word of God we will have life and have it abundantly.

We receive this promise of life through Jesus' work on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and through the risen Christ on the third day that gives us eternal life with him.

At the end of the 20th chapter of John's gospel he says of the writings of Jesus the Word in the Bible, "But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

This is the meaning of why we refer to the Bible as God's Holy Word.

Thanks be to the Word of God...!

Congregational Council Meeting, April 12, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, Church Council Secretary

Kay Pascoe presented Council Treasurer report to Congregational council members at President Finch's request at 6:00pm. Following this report, President Finch called to order a Congregational Council meeting at 6:15pm. Present at council meeting were council members President Zola Finch, Laurie Koestner, Kathy Meller, Dan Tschirgi, Mitch Plochberger, Jana Thompson, Paula Linsenhardt and Becky Weber. Also present were Pastor David Viles and Council Treasurer, Kay Pascoe. Absent was Delores Vlach. Pastor David opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pastor then shared a devotion on Psalm 55:6, "And I say, 'O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.'" Pastor shared with council, that with Lent, Holy Week and Easter devotions and services, people understand the Pastor is a bit overwhelmed, but it's not only the Pastor, it is also each of you on this council. Pastor expanded on all the extra duties of our council members and sometimes we echo the words of the Psalmist saying, "O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest." Pastor added, "But every Sunday, like me, you show up to fulfill your duties. Pastor shared he is sure we all find great joy in serving God, each other and our community." Pastor added that while physical rest is important, he believes the joyful rest we find in serving God gives us a refreshing life lived in Christ.

President Finch called for approval of the previous council meeting minutes. A motion to approve the March 8, 2021 council meeting minutes was made by Laurie Koestner, seconded by Paula Linsenhardt, and passed via voice vote.

Pastor David reports mileage for March is \$24.64. President Finch called a motion to approve Pastor mileage. Motion to approve was made by Laurie Koestner, seconded by Kathy Meller and passed via voice vote.

Pastor David reported the following activities for March, 2021: Worship and Music email meeting, Church Council meeting, City Council, Lions Club, Lohman City Council, Ministerial Alliance, and Mutual Ministry. Pastor performed one home visit with distribution of Holy Communion, one hospital visit with distribution of Holy Communion, one church visit, three office visits, three phone visits, and multiple phone conversations, counseling and prayers. Pastor held eight services for March, two communion service in person and via Facebook livestream, two non-communion in person and via Facebook Live, four mid-week Lenten Facebook live services (devotionals), and two babies and two young adult Baptisms. Pastor also prepared, printed and emailed worship bulletins, updated 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 the April Epistle.

President Finch then called for the committee reports.

Evangelism: Delores Vlach, absent. At Mrs. Vlach's request, Becky Weber reported the Evangelism committee met and are considering a possible celebration to honor mothers on Mother's Day. Laurie Koestner reported she, Jahanna Koestner, President Finch and Kaitlyn Finch attended a blanket making activity in Jefferson City, MO. to make four blankets for the Margaret Romph Foundation. President Finch reported Ms. Romph sustained serious injuries from a motor vehicle accident several years ago. She passed away last year and her mother began this foundation in her daughter's name as Margaret loved blankets. Laurie suggested we consider participating in this annual blanket making event in the future.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi reports the FM radio transmission is working well. Dan is in need of volunteers to assist with the worship video services; volunteers will be adequately trained. He also reports the plaque to honor Albin and Jackie Linsenbardt will be posted in an appropriate area.

Worship and Music: Kathy Meller reports we need volunteers to be song leaders. Song leaders may lead from the front podium, a front pew, or up in the balcony. She reports the May hymns were selected for worship. Kathy and her committee express appreciation for President Finch's dedication in playing the organ for the many church services. Kathy reports we began using Setting 8 on April 11, 2021.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner requests discussion concerning the date for the last day of Sunday School. Following discussion, the last day of Sunday School will be May 2, 2021.

Church Improvement: Mitch Plochberger reports the April 10th spring clean-up work day was cancelled due to rain, and re scheduled for April 24, 2021. He reports the parsonage roof repair has not started as yet; the amount of contributions to date is \$9,380.00; we need a total of \$11,395.22.

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

Mutual Ministry: Jana Thompson reports her committee has a new member, Diane Kalaf. She expressed her appreciation to have Diane join this committee. Jana reports there were no concerns noted during the April meeting. Pastor David suggested to the committee that the church handbook be updated. The last update was in 2011.

Old Business: None

New Business: President Finch asked council for discussion regarding possible lifting of COVID restrictions. Following discussion, council members decided ushers will bring forward the offertory plates to Pastor David, who will then place on the altar, and we will return to standing at designated times during worship.

President Finch called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Koestner, seconded by Mitch Plochberger, and passed via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. Pastor closed the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

We had lots of sunshine for the April 13th Mobile Food Pantry that was held at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot. Served 121 families with 359 people in those families. Items given out: salami, frozen sausage patties, assorted frozen meats, assorted frozen vegetables, Cheerios, Boom Chicka Pop sea salt popcorn, twenty-one pounds of fresh mixed produce, Capri Sun and Koolaid drinks, with bags of food collected by the Cub Scouts. Volunteers were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt from the Lohman Lions Club, Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Becky Weber and Audrey Bunch from St. Paul's Lutheran. On March 20th the Cub Scouts collected food for the April Food give away. They collected 878 pounds and in this amount there was 178 pounds of peanut butter. They also collected \$60.25 which was sent to the Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri to be credited to the Russellville Buddy Pak Program. Thanks for all the food and money donated to our community. Next mobile Food Pantry will be May 11th 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.

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.

Highlights of Special Meeting St. Paul's Perpetual Cemetery Board of Directors February 6, 2021

A special meeting of the cemetery Board of Directors was called to order by President, Roger Pennell. Board members present were Richard Heidbreder, Leroy Plochberger, Alan Trampe, and Delores Vlach. Also present was member, Gustav Fischer, Jr.

Treasurer, Alan Trampe, presented the annual financial report from Sept., 2019, to Sept., 2020. Deposits from memorials, donations, plots, and columbarium reservations totaled \$6669. Payments totaled \$5652; the largest for lawn care at \$5070. Alan, also presented a chart showing expenditures vs. income for the past 9 years. The average for this period showed a slight increase in income.

The Board reviewed the "Charitable Donation Agreement" between St. Paul's Perpetual Cemetery Fund, Inc. and Herbert and Rose Strobel for a cash gift of \$35,000 in memory of Herb's mother and father, Adam and Matilda Strobel, and all saints buried now and in the future at St. Paul's Cemetery.

Upon a motion being made, seconded, and approved, it was resolved to accept the contribution from Herb and Rose Strobel under the following conditions: 1. The contribution amount be used for cemetery purposes, only, and 2. the Board of Directors shall, to the best of its ability, keep the principal intact and spend only the interest or earnings for upkeep of the cemetery.

The Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges and wishes to extend a huge thank-you to Herb and Rose for this very generous contribution.

Having received this gift, the Board decided to look at investment options, other than CD's. We thank Gus Fischer, Jr. for his time and preparation to offer his investment expertise to the Board. The Board tabled any investment decisions until a later date.

Other business presented at the meeting:

1. The cemetery Board of Directors will wait until the church safety committee makes decisions before proceeding with cemetery security.
2. St. Paul's Perpetual Cemetery Fund, Inc. has been notified as a qualified beneficiary of the Hugo and Gertrude Strobel Revocable Trust.
3. The possibility of a budget was discussed. No decisions were made.
4. Notice was received from Homecoming, the columbarium provider, that there has been a price increase. Any further purchases for St. Paul's columbarium shall include the number of urns needed and shall be paid at the time of purchase agreement.
5. Hook's Lawn Service will again provide cemetery lawn care with a slight increase in price.
6. Spring clean-up date is set for April 17 or April 24, depending on weather conditions.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned. Delores Vlach, Secretary

**Highlights of Special Meeting
St. Paul's Perpetual Cemetery Board of Directors
April 6, 2021**

A special meeting of the cemetery board was called to order by President, Roger Pennell on April 6, 2021, at 6:30pm. Members present were Richard Heidbreder, Leroy Plochberger, Alan Trampe, and Delores Vlach. Also present was Donna Bax, financial advisor at Hawthorne Investment Center. Mrs. Bax presented several conservative investment options of the cemetery funds for consideration by the board of directors.

Because there has never been a need to cash in CDs for operating expenses, and no major projects are on the horizon, and CD interest rates are so very low, the board unanimously approved of withdrawing cemetery CDs and some funds from the checking account and investing these funds in two different annuities. One annuity has been invested with Sammons Financial Group and the other is invested with Mutual of Omaha. Both of these annuities meet the objectives set forth by the board of directors.

The cemetery board wishes to thank Herb and Rose Strobel for their very generous contribution. Also, thanks, to all who have in the past given donations, memorials, and gifts to support the final resting place of our family members and other departed loved ones from our community and church.

Other business presented at the meeting:

1. Cemetery work day is set for April 17, at 8:00am, weather permitting. Back-up work day is April 24.
2. Work will commence on the flag pole donated by Gary and Carol Elliott.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned. Delores Vlach, Secretary

Babies in January & February 2021



Congratulations to Madalyn Benne and Mason Deaver for the birth of their sweet baby girl. Also proud grandparents Andrew and Nicole Benne.

Briar Elane Deaver

was born on January 27, 2021 and weighed 7lbs. 3 oz. She was 19 1/2 inches in length.



Congratulations to Jonathan and Laura Kalaf, and big sister Natalie Ann. Also proud grandparents Mike & Diane Kalaf.

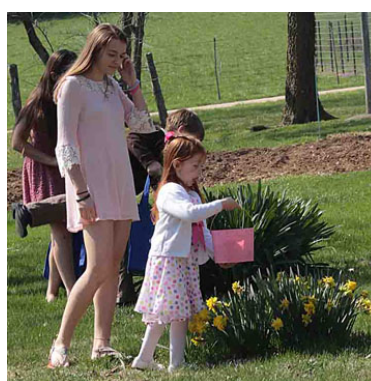
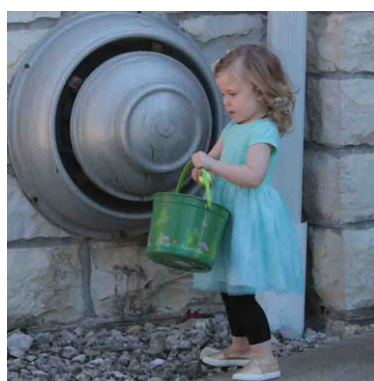
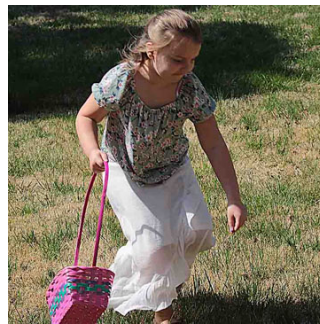
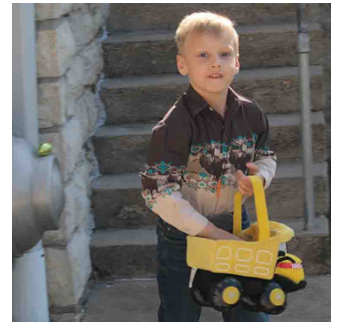
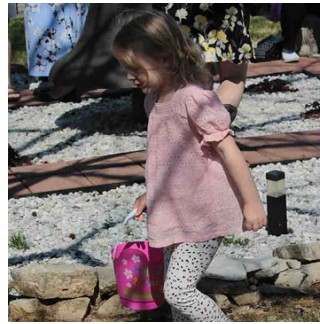
Matthew John Kalaf

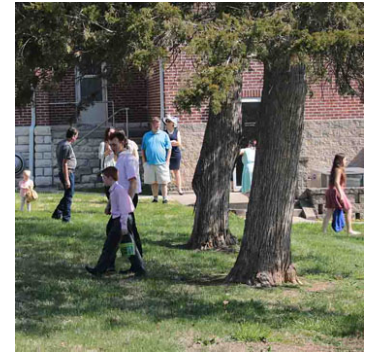
was born February 18, 2021 and weighed 8lbs 3 ozs. He was 20 inches in length.

EASTER 2021

We celebrated Easter as it should be done this year with worship service open to all who wished to attend in person as well as everyone who wanted to watch online. There were 158 people who physically attended including an amazing 16 kids who came up for the Children's sermon. There were an additional 161 views online celebrating our Risen Christ.

After worship we had an Easter Egg Hunt with lots of children running and picking up plastic eggs filled with candy as well as other treats. There were also bracelets, cards and more items hidden on the church grounds. We would like to thank all of the people who donated money and items to make this a special occasion for our kids.





Russellville High School Baccalaureate 2021

This year's Baccalaureate program will be held in the High School Gymnasium. It will take place on May 12th at 7:00 p.m. Invocation by Rev. Ed Merkel, the message will be delivered by Rev. Alex Earls and the benediction by Monsignor Robert Kurwicki. Come out and support our students.

Special Project Fund Drive: Parsonage Roof Replacement COMPLETED !!!

Thank you so much for your great generosity in raising these funds to completely pay for the new metal roofing on the Parsonage. You really are an amazing congregation. The work should start any day now.

