

# EPIS<sup>+</sup>LE



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

Volume 65 No. 6

June - 2021

## Pastor's Message

**"Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land."**

**Ezekiel 37:21**

### A Return to the Church as it was:

Ezekiel is a Prophet that was exiled to Babylon during the first siege of Judah in Israel. When Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians, God tells Ezekiel their punishment will continue, but God makes a promise to bring them back home after a time and restore them to their own land.

During January of 2020 we started hearing about a new virus in China and then on January 21<sup>st</sup> we had our first case arrive in the United States. Some were concerned but most really didn't give it much thought but 13 days later the US declared a public health emergency. Then on March 13<sup>th</sup> President Trump declared Covid-19 a National Emergency.

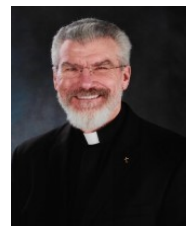
On March 15, 2020 just two days after the National Emergency was declared, there were 3,212 reported cases in the US. St. Paul's church held its last worship service on this day along with the annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast.

**EXILED:** Much like the Israelites of Ezekiel's time, the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church was exiled from attending church in the sanctuary. Also like the people of that time we would have to find ways to worship God. Pastor David began having worship services online using his Cell Phone on a stand while alone in the sanctuary. He would light the candles, read the lessons, preach the gospel, give the sermon, and do all he could to make worship available to anyone who was able to watch from their computer or cell phone. It wasn't easy and it wasn't the same but we never stopped worshipping our Lord. Eventually the church installed a new audio/video system operated by Dan Tschirgi and Zola Finch began playing the organ while Kathy Meller sang the hymns. In August of 2020 some were able to return, similar to the Babylonian exiles, and began to worship at St. Paul's in a limited way.

We all kept our faith in God and his gracious promises to keep us together and care for us no matter where we are in this life's journey. With God's help and blessings, we persisted in caring for one another and clinging to the Rock of Christ.

Now on June 6, 2021 our first Sunday of the month we will return to regular worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We will pass the plate, stand, sing and do all things as we did in the past before the Covid Exile. The second Sunday on June 13<sup>th</sup>, those who wish will come forward for communion. Anyone who wishes can still use the communion kits in the pew, wear a mask, leave their offering in the Narthex or watch online.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus, Pastor David



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Lori Meyer
- 6 Ron Loesch
- 6 Rose Strobel
- 8 Luke Frasher
- 8 Becky Weber
- 8 Jason Wood
- 9 Jahanna Koestner
- 10 Brenda Heidbreder
- 11 Roger Pennell
- 13 Larah Russell
- 14 Stacy Bubach
- 14 Kelly Grunden
- 15 Abby Bubach
- 18 Heather Morgans
- 19 Kate Freiner
- 20 Denny Linhardt
- 20 Bethanee Plochberger
- 20 Dalton Garner
- 27 Shirley Loesch
- 28 Gary Hanks
- 28 Angie Stubinger
- 29 Laurie Koestner
- 30 Price Tschirgi

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
<b>MAY 2</b>	<b>60 / 123</b>	<b>\$3,859.00</b>
<b>MAY 9</b>	<b>81 / 113</b>	<b>\$3,495.97</b>
<b>MAY 16</b>	<b>57 / 131</b>	<b>\$ 700.00</b>
<b>MAY 23</b>	<b>64 / 120</b>	<b>\$1,407.00</b>
<b>MAY 30</b>	<b>65 / 110</b>	<b>\$1,525.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>327 / 597</b>	<b>\$10,986.97</b>

### Thank You:

Glenn Gibley for your gift of \$300.00 to St. Paul's church.

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**Note:** Due to the Covid pandemic which has caused an economic down turn with businesses closing and unemployment rising, St. Paul's has also experienced a downturn in receipts to our budget. Currently our budget is down \$8,238.20 for 2021's budget.

We are thankful for your gracious giving during this difficult time. Please pray for a robust return to our nation's economy and rise in employment to help families return to a sustainable and comfortable way of life.

If you need help, we will do whatever we can to provide it for you. Please let us know.

If you are able to give more to help others who are less fortunate, the church, and those in need would be grateful for your generosity. Blessings in Christ.



### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Lori & Paul Meyer 1990
- 6 Abbie & Paula Linsenhardt 1981 **40 years**
- 7 Jonathan & Laura Kalaf 2014
- 7 Gary & Audrey Bunch 1975
- 12 Richard & Rosemary Heidbreder 1976 **45 years**
- 12 Leon & Elda Pistel 1965
- 13 Andrew & Kara Richart 2019
- 13 Kevin & Tracy Pistel 2015
- 18 Nicole & Andy Benne 1994
- 22 Jake & Sonya Loesch 2019
- 27 Scott & Cori Soell 1986
- 27 Delores & Robert Vlach 1981 **40 years**

### Continued prayers for healing and comfort.

Cheryl Perry, Tom Sperling, Vanessa Pyatt, Julie Carel, Chris Russell, Donna Viles, and baby Jane Grimm with her new heart.



### Congratulations

Pastor Ed Merckel on his 40th anniversary of Ordained ministry. Previous Pastor at St. Paul's from 2008 to 2015.

## Ask the Pastor

**Question:** Why should we attend Sunday school or the Adult Forum at St. Paul's?

**Answer:** *The Bible has a lot to say about education, especially the scriptures. Examples:*

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs. 1:7*

*"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16*

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2*

Martin Luther was a huge proponent for the education of all people. During the 1500's education was limited to the children (sons) of the wealthy. The poor were expected to do menial labor and had no need for education. The Church of those times spoke the liturgy in Latin and many of the educated had little knowledge of or inclination to master the language. Martin Luther fought for compulsory education for everyone. He believed education was necessary so that Christians could read and understand Scripture for themselves. Luther even advocated for girls to attend school and become educated.

Lutherans are well known for their stance on education and especially Biblical education. The people who are called to become Pastors of the church are required to attend seminary for years to obtain a well-balanced education of both the Old and New Testaments as well as instruction in ethics and care for the congregations they will serve.

Some faiths do not require such education but only a good understanding of the scriptures as directed by the elders of the church they belong to. If they are able to remember scripture and espouse its meaning according to what they have been taught in their particular congregation then they are deemed capable and given a congregation to serve.

This type of learning reminds me of a fond saying my dear old father used often in my hearing, "Do as I say, not as I do!" It wasn't up to me as a child to learn the correct way of doing something, I was to only do what I was told regardless of the ethical or correct way of doing the job.

Martin Luther was a child of God and did what he was told to do in the church while growing up. After giving his life to God and living in a monastery, he was committed to doing what he had been told. He felt he could never be worthy of God's mercy because he was a sinner and he said, "God is holy and just. I am a poor miserable sinner, no matter how hard I try. How can a holy God possibly love a sinner like me?"

Then one day Luther began a study of the scripture to understand how to answer that question. In Romans 3:23-25 Luther understood that "since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith." And then in Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

By hearing the word spoken in church and then going a little deeper in study during Sunday school and Adult Forum, we have the gift of learning what the scriptures really say through being educated by asking questions and seeking answers to God's Holy Word.

How can we know God's will if we do not seek his voice through education and prayer?

"Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything." 2 Timothy 2:7

Grace and Peace to you, Pastor David

## **Congregational Council Meeting, May 10, 2021** **Respectfully submitted by Pastor David Viles**

A Congregational Council meeting was called to order by President Zola Finch at 6:10 p.m. on Monday May 10, 2021. Present at council meeting were council members President Zola Finch, Laurie Koestner, Kathy Meller, Dan Tschirgi, Delores Vlach, and Mitch Plochberger. Also present were Pastor David Viles and Council Treasurer, Kay Pascoe. Absent were Jana Thompson, Becky Weber, and Paula Linsenbardt. Pastor David opened the meeting with a prayer, then shared a devotion on 1 Corinthians 1:10.

"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."

During the past two Sundays we have heard a lot about being a part of Christ and producing good fruit on his vine. That you are to love as you are loved by him. You have been chosen by God and appointed to bear fruit that will last, and in all of this you will have complete joy.

Our nation is in the middle of a great ordeal of division, name calling, finger pointing, and the refusal to work together. We have closed our eyes and our ears to our neighbor and the fruit that could be produced is rotting on the vine. Paul tells the Corinthians they must "be united in the same mind and the same judgment." The church there had become divided in which of Jesus' apostles they should follow. Paul reminds them there is only one to follow and that is Jesus the Christ. As we have been reminded in the past two weeks, it is only through the vine of Christ our Lord that we are able to produce good fruit. Amen and Amen

President Finch called for approval of the previous council meeting minutes. A motion to approve the April 12, 2021 council meeting minutes was made by Kathy Meller, seconded by Laurie Koestner, and passed via voice vote.

President Finch called for Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe's report. Kay presented the financial report. For the month of April, we ended in a deficit of \$3,210.48. Our budget year to date is down \$8,238.20 and is down \$9,261.78 from this time last year. We hope as the year goes on we will be able to get the budget back on track.

Pastor David reported the following activities for April, 2021: Worship and Music email meeting, Church Council meeting, Mutual Ministry, City Council, Lions Club, and Ministerial Alliance, prayers at the Russellville City council and School board meeting, and Synod Boundary Training. Pastor performed one home visit, four church visits, two phone visits, and multiple phone conversations, counseling and prayers. Pastor held three communion services in-person and Facebook livestream, three non-communion, in-person and with Facebook livestream. Pastor prepared, 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 April Epistle. President Finch called for a motion to approve Pastor's mileage for reimbursement of \$20.16. Dan Tschirgi made a motion to approve the mileage and Mitchell Plochberger seconded the motion and it was passed via voice vote.

### **President Finch then called for the committee reports.**

**Evangelism:** Delores Vlach commented on the very good Mother's Day Sunday service with Pastor tying in the Children's sermon with mothers and also the regular sermon. Kathy Meller did a wonderful job singing a special tribute song titled "A Mother's Prayer" by Keith Getty. Kathy pre-recorded the music on the keyboard so she could sing to her own music. The congregation loved it and some were moved to tears with the heartfelt wording. After the service, Delores handed out pink and yellow carnations with greenery and a ribbon to each of the mothers who attended. We would like to start the Fellowship Hour events after service once a month as we did in the past, we will start a new sign-up sheet for volunteers to host. We will send out cards to graduates of high school and college. We will begin the 'Coffee Talk' again on May 23rd downstairs.

**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 would like one more volunteer to help with Sunday worship video services. Volunteers will be adequately trained. We are still looking for a better mic on the lectern.

**Worship and Music:** Kathy Meller reports services are going well and Erika is able to get readers. We discussed going to a hybrid communion offering regular communion to those who wish to come forward and the current kits to those who wish to remain seated. We discussed the music guidelines in the Church Handbook and reduced it to one paragraph. Carol and Gary Elliott will place flags in the cemetery for Memorial day and Pastor will do a service at the cross as he has in the past. We will go back to regular style of traditional services on June 6th. Masks will be up to individual preference.

**Parish Education:** Laurie Koestner reports Sunday School has ended until the next school year resumes. Attendance has dropped a lot since last year. VBS has tentatively been scheduled at Trinity Church from July 11 to 15. We would like to have an out of school party here with some of our youth. We plan to have the food stand on 4th of July Sunday during the fireworks. The youth will be given the opportunity to run the stand and if not then perhaps the women of the church.

**Church Improvement:** Mitch Plochberger reports spring clean-up work day has been postponed several times due to weather. There probably isn't much to be done and Pastor announced last Sunday to come if it's not raining or stay home if the weather is bad. The Parsonage has a new roof now. We are still having problems with two sanctuary lights not working continuously. The switch for the garbage disposal has been ordered. A filter needs to be put on the water lines to the bathrooms to keep sediment and other debris from causing problems.

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

**Mutual Ministry:** Pastor said the committee is working on the Handbook, he brought selected items from the Handbook for the council to look at and after discussion several items were changed.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

President Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.  
Pastor closed the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

**Mobile Food Pantry:** Audrey Bunch

The Mobile Food Pantry was held May 11th, served 107 families with 332 people in those families. Some of the items given out this month were assorted frozen pizzas, frozen McRib patties, produce box (included sour cream, cottage cheese, meat, peppers, onions, potatoes, meat sauce), oatmeal, assorted boxes of cereal, Minute Maid Juice, Nutri System shake mix and milk. Volunteers from Lohman Lion's Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran Church were Rosemary Heidbreder, Becky Weber and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Pantry will be June 8th at 1:30 P.M. in the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot.

**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.

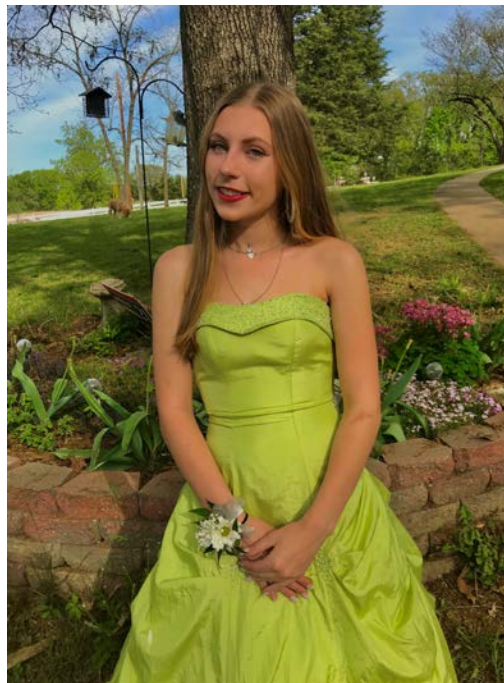


**Margaret Circle:** Margaret Circle will resume its meetings on Tuesday, June 8, 2021! It has been way too long since we met in person and I am so looking forward to seeing everyone. We will gather at the church at 6:30 PM. Donita Stubinger will be our hostess and Kay Pascoe will lead the Bible study. We will get caught up with the various organizations which we have supported in the past couple of years, and also consider other charities which might need our help. In addition, we will determine meeting dates, times and places for the remainder of 2021 and make plans for hosts and Bible study leaders. As always, Margaret Circle is open to all women in the church and their friends. Please contact me by phone (573-635-6681) or email (erikagerth@embarqmail.com) and let me know you will attend. Erika Gerth

## High School and College Graduates 2021



Kyle Freiner is graduating from California R-1 High School this May. He plans to attend Moberly Area Community College in Columbia and then transfer to Mizzou to obtain his degree in Civil Engineering.



Madison Linnenbrink graduated from the Jefferson City High School and received a scholarship to attend the (Mizzou) University of Missouri. Madison plans to major in business.



Landon Plochberger graduated from Russellville R-1 High School and is planning to attend State Tech starting in June in their Civil Construction Technology Program. He will earn his Heavy Equipment Operations Certificate & with one Additional year earn an Associates of Applied Science in Civil Construction Technology. This consists of construction management, engineering documents, construction estimating, and materials testing.



Abby Bubach graduated from R-1 Russellville High School in 2019 (wearing cap from that graduation)! She graduated from Moberly Area Community College with an Associates Degree in Applied Sciences in May of this year! Abby has been accepted into the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at MACC and will start in August!



Lyndli Thompson graduated from Russellville R-1 High School and will be attending the MACC/Mizzou program in the fall and pursuing her Bachelors degree in Education.



Makayla Stubinger graduated from Missouri State with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. She has now accepted a position with the Farm Service Agency in Jefferson City as a Program Technician.

**Congratulations and God's Blessings in your future endeavors as you continue your life's journey. St. Paul's congregation is very proud of you and look forward to sharing your experiences as you continue to worship with your church family.**



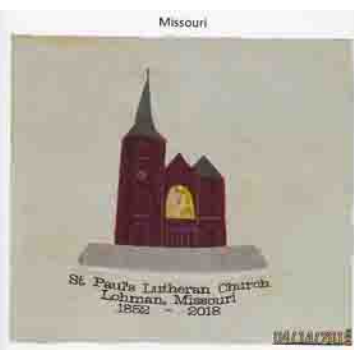
## S.T.A.R.S. [Seniors, tired and retired saints]

At long last we are going to resume our monthly meetings. We will meet Wednesday, June 9, for lunch at 11:30 with a quilt program to follow. Make your reservation with Rose Strobel at 782-4553. Meat casseroles will be provided and we ask that everyone else bring a dish to share.

**Book Cover**



**Our Block**



In 2018 we received a letter from St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Utica, located in Thurmont, Maryland. The letter explained they would soon be celebrating their 250th Anniversary and decided to construct a quilt with blocks from a St. Paul's Lutheran Church from every state. The folks here in Lohman were chosen to participate from Missouri. They also requested a short history from each church. Pictures and stories from all the churches were then printed in a book and each church received a copy. It is quite an interesting project. Jeannette Fischer will present a short program with slides (assisted by Pastor Viles) concerning our contribution. Please join us for a delicious lunch and an interesting program.

**Mother's Day** in May was very special at St. Paul's Church.



Special thanks to Delores Vlach for the flowers she purchased and put together in water filled vials and gave to each mother who attended service on Mother's Day morning.

Also blessed thanks to Kathy Meller for singing a special song she purchased titled "A Mother's Prayer" by Keith Getty. This beautiful prayer was from a mother to her child to be strong and know that she would lead him and teach him and that God would be with him.

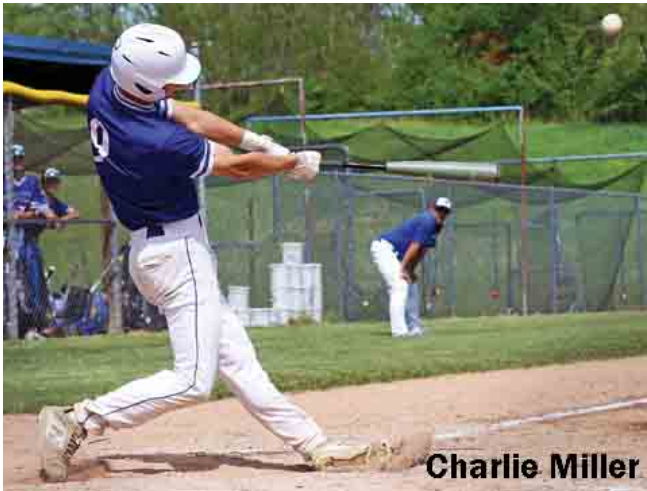
**A BIG Thank You** to Marvin Bubach and Gus Fischer for taking care of the hill in May. It had grown tall and probably could have been baled for hay. Ha Marvin also sprayed weeds to help get them under control. Thank you both so much!





## Baseball at its Finest! 2021 With the Young Men of St. Paul's Church.

Story and Photo credit: *by* [Jason Strickland](#)



**Charlie Miller**

Charlie Miller cleared two fences in the Russellville Tournament championship game against Pembroke Hill, launching a grand slam just in front of a fan sitting in a neighborhood yard well beyond the left-field fence that measures 300 feet from home plate. "That's one of the longest home runs I've ever seen..."He's got such a great swing and has a lot of natural power" Russellville coach Lucas Branson said. Miller also hit a three-run home run in Saturday's 4-2 win against Capital City."

Read more about Charlie Miller in the May edition of the Sports Locker Magazine [<LINK>](#)

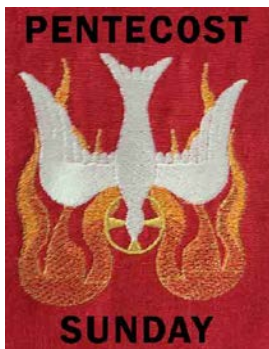


**Landon Plochberger**

Russellville's Landon Plochberger watches his pitch get fouled off by a Fayette batter during Thursday afternoon's game in the Russellville Tournament. Russellville coach Lucas Branson said Landon Plochberger struck out eight of the 12 batters he faced, allowing one hit and walking two in three innings.

Read more about Landon Plochberger in the July/August 2020 edition of the Sports Locker Magazine. [<LINK>](#)

### Pentecost Sunday May 23, 2021



Each year Diane and Mike Kalaf bring this magnificent Amaryllis to church for display as part of the altar flowers and arrangements. They are huge, perhaps three feet in height and big beautiful flowers.

This is an awesome gift from God to the Kalaf's blessed floriculturist abilities.

St. Paul's is blessed to have such a display to give glory to God in his Church on the Hill.



# Lohman Lions Club

## BBQ

### Sunday - July 4th, 2021



Lohman Community Bldg. - 8910 Lincoln St.

Dine-in or carryout - starting at 10:30 am

Chicken, Pork Steak & Brat Dinners \$10.00

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Patriotic Worship Service - 9 am

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church - on the hill

Corner Collectables - open 9 am - 3 pm

Lohman Community Center Open House - 10:30 am - 3 pm

Historical display of Millbrook, Stringtown & Lohman

Updated from 2019 with 30 new display boards

St. Paul's Youth Will Be Serving

On the Church grounds beginning at 6 pm:

Hot dogs, chips, Root beer floats, Dessert, Soda & Water

## Fireworks - 9 PM

On the grounds of St. Paul's Lutheran Church sponsored by:

Lohman Lions Club

City of Lohman

Xtreme Body & Paint



Not responsible for accidents

## Summer 2021 Schedule Lake Area Community Orchestra

Tuesday, June 1	St. Michael's Catholic Church, Hatler St., Russellville
Tuesday, June 8	Ha Ha Tonka State Park, Route D, Camdenton
Tuesday, June 15	Eldon Air Park, Eldon (First Baptist Church Rain Location)
Tuesday, June 22	West Lake Christian Church, Route O, Laurie
Tuesday, July 13	Hope Lutheran Church, Senior Center, Osage Beach Parkway, Osage Beach
Tuesday, July 20	First Christian Church, East Capitol Ave., Jefferson City
Tuesday, July 27	Versailles Royal Theatre, Versailles
Tuesday, August 3	Lake Ozark Christian Church, Bus. 54, Lake Ozark

**All Concerts begin at 7:00 pm. There is no admission charge. Free will donations are welcome. Bring a chair to Ha Ha Tonka and Eldon Air Park.**

There is some great music in store for us at these concerts. Selections include America, the Beautiful; Chimes of Liberty March; Double Concerto; and Hoe Down. And we usually close with Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Our new director for this year is Andrew Drennan.

Gene Moll, Orchestra Publicity Chair; [themissourimolls@gmail.com](mailto:themissourimolls@gmail.com); 573-782-8203



### RUSSELLVILLE ALUMNI BANQUET

June 5, 2021

Russellville Middle School Gymnasium

6 pm

\$14 per person at the door

**RSVP by Friday, May 21, 2021**

**Online:** See link provided

**E-Mail:** [rsf@coler1indians.org](mailto:rsf@coler1indians.org)

**Call:** Jana Thompson - (573)338-1049

Lucille Rosenmiller - (573)645-6527

Please provide name(s) of those in your party as well as year(s) of graduation.

**Come Help Us Celebrate**

Graduating Class of 2020

Graduating Class of 2021

25th and 50th Class Reunions  
of 2020 and 2021

Please make plans to join us for the Russellville Alumni Banquet on Saturday, June 5, 2021. We will be celebrating the 25th and 50th Class Reunions, along with the graduating classes of both 2020 and 2021 this year, since COVID cancelled our plans for last year. Those 2020 and 2021 RHS Graduates who RSVP and attend the banquet will receive a free meal, and they will also be entered into a \$200 scholarship drawing. You can RSVP by phone, email, or online at: <https://forms.gle/LRC8o5TVRvs3C3TZ9>