

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 65 No. 7

July - 2021

Pastor's Message

"Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey." <Exodus3:7-8>

"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." <Galatians 5:1>

Freedom: On Sunday, July 4th we will observe our independence from the king of England, King George III. The Revolutionary War lasted nearly eight years resulting in the deaths of 6,800 Americans in battle, and 17,000 more from disease. Those who fought and died won a war that gave us freedom and a new land of our own, "a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

On this first Sunday of July we will also honor the veterans in our congregation, those in the past and all who are currently serving to keep us free. We begin the morning with a patriotic service with Christian hymns that combine God and Country.

Then later in the day we will have a 4th of July festival with fellowship around food, friends, loved ones, and the Star Spangled Banner played by Kylee Schepeler and Scott Soell on guitars. Afterward we will witness a sky exploding in the bright lights of firework which will remind us of the bombs, bullets, and cannon fire that killed so many for our freedom.

However, there was another war for freedom fought 2000 years before revolutionary war. It was a war against sin and death, darkness and light, justice and injustice, God and the devil.

God sees and hears his people in need and comes to fight for them and rescue them from the bonds of slavery to sin and temptations and to the harsh realities of the world.

Emmanuel, "God with us", was sent by the Father to bring us a freedom we could never win for ourselves. God came to fight for our protection against the evils of the world that would enslave us to death and destruction.

One man, who was fully God and fully human was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. Jesus, who is our Savior redeemed us unto himself through his body and his blood. Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins and rose from the dead to give us eternal life. Not only for Americans but also for all people of the world, all people created in God's image. For you and for me. "For freedom Christ has set us free."

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



FINANCIAL UPDATE

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Angela Tierney
- 2 Kaylin McDonald
- 2 Christopher Murphy
- 5 Vanessa Soell
- 8 Gus Fischer
- 9 Kara Freiner
- 10 Sherry Williams
- 11 Joshua Ferrell
- 12 Carol Heidbreder
- 15 Sherman Koestner
- 16 Philip Scott Soell
- 16 Wayne Linsenbardt
- 17 Jonathan Kalaf
- 17 Shawn Williams
- 19 Vera Stubinger
- 20 Remington Ferrell
- 20 Charlie Mae Ferrell
- 21 Laney Hager
- 21 Jessica Stoermer
- 24 Debbie Boyce
- 24 Colin Woehrer
- 31 Tyler Hager
- 31 Lyndli Thompson

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
JUNE 06	75 / 92	\$3,738.00
JUNE 13	75 / 102	\$2,806.97
JUNE 20	80 / 100	\$2,536.25
JUNE 27	76 / 98	\$8,377.00
Total	306 / 392	\$17,458.22

Included: Thank you to Richard and Rosemary Heidbreder for their gift of \$4,500.00 in celebration of 45 years of wedded bliss.

Income not included: Epistle Mailing, \$41.00



One of the favorite devotion posts of June.

Pastor sharing his popsicle with his pup Brandy who had none.

Continued prayers for healing and comfort.

Tyler Soell, Tom Sperling, Vanessa Pyatt, Julie Carel, Chris Russell, and Donna Viles.



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Kara and Andrew Richart 2019
- 18 Craig and Angie Stubinger 1998
- 19 Elroy and Vera Stubinger 1980
- 23 Rich and Gina Prosch 1988
- 27 Harry and Jana Thompson 1974
- 29 John and Dee Dee Loesch 1978

Note from Pastor David

I am enthusiastic about teaching the word of God and helping others to read the Bible and stay connected to God's word. Several of you attended a 'Reading Through the Bible' class in 2019 and ended in February of 2020 just before the Covid-19 outbreak.

I would like to do this again if there is enough interest in our congregation. If you have read through it once you will find that reading through it again can be very rewarding and you will pick up things you did not the last time through. If you are interested in doing this together, please let me know.

I will assign a reading list of 2 to 4 chapters a day and we can meet together one evening during the week to discuss for further insights. It is easy to read in small bits like this and a lot of fun to discuss.

Ask the Pastor

Question: Do we have all the answers to everything in the Bible?

Answer: *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the revealed things belong to us and to our children forever, to observe all the words of this law."* < Deuteronomy 29:29 >

"Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
<Hebrews 4:12>

Nope, not even close. But the more we read the Bible and the more we come to church to gather together in the word, the more we come to understand.

The Bible is not a single book but a collective work of many authors through the centuries before the birth of Christ Jesus to the Centuries afterward. All of these authors were inspired directly or indirectly by God himself to write these words for us to form a relationship with God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

If we read the Bible in its entirety, we will discover a good deal of what God wants us to know. We will be witness to the creation of the earth and all the universe from the very beginning and God's teaching through his Son, Jesus the Christ and beyond by the Apostles who were with him. Then we will further be taught as the Holy Spirit brings us understanding from what we hear and read in the word.

In the Old Testament verse above from Deuteronomy, we find there are secret things that belong to the Lord our God. These things we cannot know or understand in the beginning. The Apostle Paul tells the Corinthians, "I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh."

We are captive to the ways of understanding through our life in the world, the flesh. In order to understand the spiritual things we must grow in the word of God and this can only be done with time, patience and the gift of the Holy Spirit guiding us to know the truth.

If we ever stop seeking to understand and believe we know all we need to know, then the evil one will have tricked us. The one who prowls the world looking for ways to keep us ignorant of God's glory. If we continue in the holy scriptures then God in his glory will reveal more and more things to us as we are able to discern.

The New Testament verse above from Hebrews tells us that "the word of God is living and active." This I have seen in my own life and the lives of others. I have read through the Bible a dozen times, studied it in seminary, and through the commentary of wise and learned writers and teachers. But yet, I still know I do not have all the answers.

Each time I read through the Bible I find things I didn't see all the other times through it. My life changes and my relationship with God increases and the Holy Spirit opens my mind to new things I had not considered before through the word of God that is living and active. God's word is an amazing wonder filled with the miraculous. It was spoken to people thousands of years ago and yet it continues to live and breathe life into our bodies and souls today.

Read and listen to God speaking to you today.

Grace and Peace to you, Pastor David

Congregational Council Meeting, June 14, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, 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, Delores Vlach, Laurie Koestner, Kathy Meller, Mitch Plochberger, Jana Thompson, Paula Linsenhardt and Becky Weber. Also present were Pastor David Viles and Council Treasurer, Kay Pascoe. Absent was Dan Tschirgi. Pastor David opened the meeting with a prayer. Pastor then shared a devotion on 1 Peter 3:8, "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." Pastor shared with council a picture of their puppy dog, Brandy wearing a cone that was taken a couple of years ago when Brandy, their puppy dog, had her eye lids worked on and had to wear a cone. She was miserable and couldn't rub her face on the floor and just wanted to be held. "So I held her and would take the cone off so she could eat and drink throughout the day and also just to give her some relief while I gently rubbed her face around her eyes" he said. The verse from 1 Peter was part of a letter he wrote to the people of Asia Minor, now called Turkey. In keeping the faith some were suffering from those who were against it while others were simply shunned from the communities. Peter tells them to be unified in the teachings of Christ and to care for one another as they are in need. In the same way Jesus cared for others, we are called to be sympathetic and care for each other with love, a tender heart, and a nonjudgmental humble mind. To care for each other in their way is to show Christ's love to others. "I'm honored to be the Pastor of a Church Council and Congregation that follows Christ in this way" Pastor shared with us.

President Finch called for approval of the previous council meeting minutes. A motion to approve the May 10, 2021 council meeting minutes was made by Jana Thompson, seconded by Delores Vlach, and passed via voice vote. Pastor David reports mileage for May is \$26.88. President Finch called a motion to approve Pastor mileage. Motion to approve was made by Kathy Meller, seconded Laurie Koestner, and passed via voice vote.

Pastor David reported the following activities for May 2021: Worship and Music meeting, Church Council meeting, City Council, Lions Club, Lohman City Council, Ministerial Alliance, and Mutual Ministry and Russellville High School Baccalaureate. Pastor performed one office visit, one counseling visit, and multiple phone conversations, counseling, prayers and visits. Pastor held five services for May, two communion Sunday worship services in person and online with Facebook Live, and three non-communion services in person and online with Facebook Live. Pastor prepared, printed and emailed worship bulletins, participated in the National Day of Prayer event at St. Paul's, participated in the Russellville High School Baccalaureate, performed a funeral for a non-member, updated website with bulletin and video services, posted a daily photo with Bible verse and message on Church Facebook, and created, printed and emailed the June Epistle.

President Finch then called for the committee reports.

Evangelism: Delores Vlach reported plans are underway for Father's day celebration for the June 20, 2021 worship service. Delores thanked her committee members, Trish Russell, Laurie Koestner, Karla Strobel, and Marie Scheperle for assisting her with the work on this. She reports Junior Lutherans and Donita Stubinger will furnish food and drinks for Fellowship Sunday on July 4, 2021 after worship. Delores reports her committee will hand out free mementos to the children attending the fireworks celebration that evening. She reports she sent out graduation cards to all of our high school and college graduates. Delores was thanked for doing this.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi, absent. President Finch reports that there was a glitch during Holy Communion when she watched the June 13th worship of the Facebook Live recording. Pastor David offered that this is likely an internet problem, and reports he reboots the internet every Sunday prior to the start of worship. President Finch asks for more volunteers to assist with Sunday Worship video services. They will be adequately trained.

Worship and Music: Kathy Meller reports plans are underway for the July 4th Patriotic service. There was discussion on how veterans will be honored at this service. She also reports her committee discussed having a guest book in the narthex for visitors to sign when visiting our church, like we used to do longer ago. Kathy reports she thought our return to going up for Holy Communion went very well at worship June 13, and adds that communion helpers and readers for the remainder of this year have been assigned. She reports we will be using Setting 8 for the rest of the summer.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner reports there is a Vacation Bible School planning meeting June 21, 2021 for VBS planned for July 11 to July 15, 2021. Laurie reports our youth will be staffing the July 4 Fireworks food stand, and helpers are needed to assist them. A request of pies, cakes, cookies, and buns will be made for the food stand and published in the upcoming Epistle.

Church Improvement: Mitch Plochberger reports the Sanctuary lights seem to be working well, as is the parsonage air conditioner. He reports the basement garbage disposal is a work in progress.

Stewardship and Finance: Paula Linsenbardt. No report.

Mutual Ministry: Jana Thompson reports no concerns were noted with our return to usual worship service following suspension due to Covid 19. She reports the church handbook is being reviewed and revisions will be made as needed. Council members discussed proper procedure for borrowing and returning church property, such as tables and chairs. There is a sign out clip board posted outside our church library. Congregants must be sure to sign them out and sign them back in when they are returned, in a timely manner.

Old Business: None

New Business: President Finch called for a discussion on the construction and installing of a "Blessings" box, which is a large box with a plexi-glass door that can be filled with donations of nonperishable food items and hygiene products for people in need. There is one such box at St. Michael's Church in Russellville, Mo. After discussion, it was decided we consider this, with the probability of it being placed on church grounds. President Finch also called for discussion for a Community Garden on church property. After discussion, it was decided that we table this at present, and will discuss this at future council meetings.

President Finch called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn as made by Laurie Koestner, seconded by Mitch Plochberger and passed via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The Mobile Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri was June 8th at the Trinity Lutheran parking lot in Russellville. We had a total of 26 volunteers to help with the food items given out. This month the numbers were a little lower with 89 families and a total of 264 people served. The following items were given away: produce box, half and half, assorted crackers, cereal in boxes, cups and bags, Pringles chips, frozen chicken wings, frozen pizzas, salads and corn on the cob. Volunteers from Lohman Lion's Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran Church were, Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Becky Weber, Mattson and Oliver Stoermer, and Audrey Bunch. The next Mobile Food Pantry will be July 13th at 1:30 to 3:30 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.

Margaret Circle: Members of Margaret Circle met on Tuesday, June 8th, our first meeting in well over a year. What a joy to see one another and to welcome Debbie Boyce's mom, Pat Collins, as well as Patty Duncan, to the group.

The study of God's holy word is an important part of each meeting. Kay Pascoe led us in an interactive study of "Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind" based on the 9th chapter of John. The script enabled each member of the group to portray a character in that story. Very powerful!

We had quite a bit of correspondence to review and were pleased to receive letters of appreciation from organizations to which we sent donations this past year. We also received thank you notes from last year's confirmands for their confirmation gifts. And we were delighted to receive holiday cards from our dear friend Lilo Fischer who now lives near St. Louis with one of her daughters.

God has provided each of us with many blessings and Margaret Circle members are generous in giving back to God a portion of what we have received. The evening's offering was divided between The Samaritan Center, Prison Patch, The Special Learning Center, and Rape and Abuse Crisis Service.

Meetings for the remainder of 2021 are as follows:

- † August 10 6:30 PM Home of Debbie Boyce
- † October 5 6:30 PM Church - Marie Scheperle hostess
- † December 7 6:00 PM Home of Erika Gerth

Ladies, please mark your calendars. Remember that Margaret Circle is open to ALL women of the church AND their friends! You are welcome!

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

In June we enjoyed a wonderful lunch followed with a short program by Jeannette Fischer about the St. Paul's quilt block that our church submitted to the St. Paul's church in Maryland in recognition of their 250th anniversary. Thanks Jeannette Fischer and Pastor David for preparing the slide show.

On July 7 we will celebrate the month with a hot dog party. Hot dogs will be grilled outdoors and everyone is asked to bring one dish to share. Buns will be provided. Make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 if you plan to attend. We will not have a meeting during the hot, dry, busy month of August. On September 8 we will resume our regular meetings with lunch and an interesting program.

WELCA Annual Meeting: The St. Paul's Women of the Church will come together after church services on Sunday, July 11th for a short business meeting. We have not had a meeting since January of 2020 and several items need to be addressed dealing with WELCA. All women are invited to attend and we look forward to your participation as the items to be discussed will determine how WELCA will be handled in the future. Please plan to attend.

Father's Day in June was a special time at St. Paul's Church.



Special thanks to Delores Vlach and the Evangelism committee members, Trish Russell, Laurie Koestner, Karla Strobel, and Marie Scheperle for baking homemade cookies for the fathers and men who attended worship on this day. Also thanks to Kathy Meller, Dan Tschirgi, Scott Soell, Madison

Linnenbrink and Mackenzie Linnenbrink for singing a special song Kathy purchased titled "I See a Hero" A Father's Day Song. Lyrics by Shawna Edwards and Music by Shawna Edwards and Daniel Blomberg.

Blanketmaking Day: WELCA in the past years has held several blanket making days. Some of the blankets were sent to Lutheran World Relief and others were used in our own local community by the fire department, given to people in need, etc. Unfortunately, we are not able to get those days in before the mailing deadline set by Lutheran World Relief this year. Instead WELCA has sent a check in the amount of \$250 to help offset the expenses of mailing blankets to the countries in need. We encourage our church members to continue working on their own in putting blankets together and we hopefully will begin this process again early in 2022.

New Flag Pole:



Special thanks to Gary Elliott and Roger Pennell for installing the new flag pole.

Gary purchased the pole and four sets of the American and church flags. Roger received permission from the Cemetery Board to have the flag pole erected at the southwest corner of the cemetery next to the light pole. Leroy Plochberger used his tractor and a large augur to bore a hole approximately 18 inches wide and 3 foot deep. Both Roger and Gary worked to pour the concrete footing and install the base attachment for the pole and let it set for a few weeks. They then poured the rest of the foundation and set the pole. The flags were temporarily put on to make sure the clips were in the correct place. The official raising of the flags will be done following our patriotic service on July 4th.

Greetings from Rev. Walter and Helen Laughlin



Helen was baptized and confirmed here at St. Paul's church and married Walter in our sanctuary. They retired to Topeka Kansas. Last year they moved to Tulsa, OK to be near their daughter Stephanie (Laughlin) Mueller and her family.

Walter and Helen now live in the senior living at University Village in Tulsa Oklahoma. Their address is 8555 South Lewis Apt 19A Tulsa, OK 74137. They enjoy hearing what is new with their friends in Lohman and the congregation at St. Paul, so please feel free to send a card or letter. Helen and Walter's email is: wihl@networksplus.net and Walter keeps an eye on it and prints them out, so you can email them also. They would love to hear from you.

Walter will recognize his 60th anniversary of ordination on July 2nd. What a wonderful time spent serving our Lord. Helen is now 90 years old and Walter is 91 years old. Thank you to Stephanie (Laughlin) Mueller for sending this update in behalf of her parents. Stephanie adds, "They have some health issues that has changed life for them significantly but they continue to relish the time they have together and lean on their faith on this continued journey."



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

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



2021 TEAM VBS

Welcome to TREASURED, Discovery You're Priceless to God! If you want to join us, we will have Bible Adventures, Imagination Station/Crafts, Jungle Gym Games, Sing & Play Rock and Closing Quest & More!

Ages: Age 3 thru children just finishing 5th grade

When: July 11 - 15, 2021

VBS Closing with meal and program will be July 15, 2021, at the same time; parents, grandparents, guardians, relatives please attend with your child(ren).

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (No Meal)

Monday – Thursday Time: 5:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meal: 5:45 p.m. Program starts at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday will be the TEAM VBS closing with parent, guardians, etc, attending.

The meals are being donated by Reinhardt Circle/Misty Schroeder.

Team VBS Partners and Contact Persons:

St. Michael's Catholic Church: Stacy Schrimpf 619-2736

St. Paul's Lutheran Church: Laurie Koestner 680-1278

Trinity Lutheran Church: Anna Wise 821-3434

United Methodist Church: Jane Wisch 496-3741

PLEASE RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION NO LATER THAN July 5, 2021
to a contact person listed above

or

mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, Attn: Team VBS, 13007 Route C, Russellville, MO 65074

Registration fee: \$10.00 per child with a max of \$30 per family.

Fee includes:

T-shirt for each child registered, supper, music CD per family, and more.