

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 65 No. 8

August - 2021

Pastor's Message

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." <2 Corinthians 5:17>

ARE WE THERE YET?: Summer vacation will end soon. Kids will be returning to school in Jefferson City on August 23, Russellville on August 25, and California on September 7. Adults have probably used their vacation time and will be at work most days.

After being restricted to homes last year, many of you have taken advantage of being vaccinated for the Covid virus and have traveled far and wide. Prayerfully more people will consider taking the vaccination to guard against the Delta variant taking over so many states and lives. Or for those who will not take the vaccine I pray your immune systems are strong or you have built up antibodies to overcome the effects of the virus.

We have been looking to get back to the normal life we had prior to the Covid-19 virus outbreak of 2020. I have to wonder, do we really want to go back to that normal?

Yes, we want to be free of the sickness and death that devastated our nation and the world. But what about the other normal ways of life we lived?

During the past year and a half, we have been witness to the tragic epidemic that has decimated the lives of so many families. Some continue months after contracting the virus to endure the long term effects, nicknamed the 'long haulers'. We now have 611,000 deaths nationally. The economy has suffered tremendously, with rampant unemployment, lost homes, and increased homelessness.

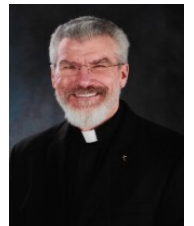
Before all of this began, most of us were happy to be secure in our lives and enjoying most days without any worries. Now however, even if we have escaped the major problems we still have been affected. Hardly anyone has not lost a family or friend, or know of someone that has suffered in some way. Businesses have been reduced or closed all together.

We used to hear of bad situations happening in distant places and be glad it was not us and the normal was to perhaps say a prayer and wish them the best.

Having experienced the troubles now our self or witnessed it first hand in our friends, I pray for a New Normal. A new creation in Christ that sends us out to help our neighbors in need. A new creation in which we pray for one another and then do what we are able to help answer those prayers.

I pray we all listen to the Holy Spirit that urges us out to love and care for our neighbors. This is the new normal I pray we see, and live, come Lord Jesus.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
JULY 04	85 / 110	\$3,091.22
JULY 11	97 / 108	\$3,385.72
JULY 18	65 / 115	\$2,174.00
JULY 25	73 / 102	\$2,671.00
Total	320 / 435	\$11,321.94

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Scott Soell
- 2 David Strobel
- 4 Beverly Boehm
- 5 Lindsey Plochberger
- 7 Ladine Heidbreder
- 8 Peyton Stubinger
- 9 Julie Griffin
- 14 John Loesch
- 15 Marlene Carlson
- 15 Nicole Benne
- 16 Kambry Pistel
- 17 Ashley Meyer
- 18 Lindsey Carrel
- 18 Michael Linhardt
- 18 Tinleigh Strobel
- 18 Delores Vlach
- 19 Kylee Scheperle
- 22 Davin Pistel
- 24 Lucas Plochberger
- 24 Frank Pascoe
- 26 Michael Elliott
- 26 Jordan Russell
- 29 Barbara Carrel
- 29 Arabella Ferrell
- 29 Mandy Miller
- 29 Craig Stubinger
- 30 Jake Thompson
- 31 Marshal Schroeder

BACK TO SCHOOL BUDDY PACKS:

This year St. Paul's once again joins the local churches to provide much needed items for our children returning to school. We are collecting **Kleenex and pencils**. These will be donated on Monday, August 9, 2021



Continued prayers for healing and comfort.
 Jenetia Gibler, Tyler Soell, Tom Sperling, Vanessa Pyatt,
 Julie Carel, Chris Russell, Donna Viles and Family,
 Jahanna Koestner, Jane Purcell, and Brad Bolz.



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mitchell and Laura Plochberger 2009
- 2 Mike and Diane Kalaf 1975
- 6 Frank and Kay Pascoe 1967
- 8 Jamie and Amanda Bunch 2009
- 9 Larry and Debby Koestner 1969
- 16 Eric and Mary Beth Koestner 2003
- 19 Les and Kathryn Linsenbardt 1962
- 23 Alan and Rania Scheperle 2003
- 27 Pastor Ed and Carole Merckel 1977
- 27 James Crabtree & Sarah Gordon 2016 **(5 Years)**

Answer the Pastor

This month I am going to turn the tables and ask you for the answers.

This is an Open Book Quiz. Draw a line between the left column and the matching right column. There are 22 lines in all, so take your time. Have a question? Contact Pastor David.

Match the persons with what they had ALIKE.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Nebuchadnezzar and Aaron. | (Daniel 3:1; Exodus 32:4) |
| 2. Jesus and Jonah. | (Matthew 8:26; Jonah 1:15) |
| 3. Miriam and Naaman. | (Numbers 12:10; 2 Kings 5:27) |
| 4. Daniel and Joseph. | (Daniel 2:25; Genesis 41:25) |
| 5. Joseph and Zechariah. | (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:13) |
| 6. John the Baptist and Paul. | (Mark 6:18; Acts 25:26) |
| 7. Jesus and Joseph. | (Matthew 27:9; Genesis 37:28) |
| 8. Naboth and Jesus. | (1 Kings 21:9-10; Mark 14:56) |
| 9. Judas and Joab. | (Mark 14:44-45; 2 Samuel 20:9-10) |
| 10. Jesus and Micaiah. | (Matthew 26:67; 1 Kings 22:24) |
| 11. Joseph and Prodigal son. | (Genesis 44:27-28; Luke 15:20) |

Match the item and the person associated with it.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Pottage | a. Elisha, 2 Kings 6:1-6 |
| 2. Plumbline | b. Lazarus, Luke 16:20-21 |
| 3. Harp | c. Lot's wife, Genesis 19:26 |
| 4. Ark | d. Esau, Genesis 25:30 |
| 5. Axe head | e. Moses, Exodus 3:3-4 |
| 6. Burning bush | f. Pharaoh, Exodus 8:2,6 |
| 7. Rib | g. Amos, Amos 7:7-8 |
| 8. Salt | h. Noah, Genesis 6: 14 |
| 9. Big fish | i. David, 1 Samuel 16:23 |
| 10. Frogs | j. Jonah, Jonah 1:17 |
| 11. Crumbs | k. Eve, Genesis 2:21-22 |

Grace and Peace to you, Pastor David

Congregational Council Meeting, July 12, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, Council Secretary

A Congregational Council meeting was called to order by President Zola Finch at 6:05 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2021 in the church basement. Present were council members President Finch, Kathy Meller, Mitch Plochberger, Dan Tschirgi and Becky Weber. Absent were Laurie Koestner, Paula Linsenbardt, Jana Thompson and Delores Vlach. Also present were Pastor David Viles and Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe.

Pastor David opened the meeting with a prayer. Pastor then shared a devotion on Psalm 115:12-13, "The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; he will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great."

I imagine most if not all of you have had sleepless nights fretting about what you can do to solve the problems of the world or at least the problems close to you. I have had several nights lately concerned about Covid-19 cases on the rise in our state, people's health issues, attendance at church and more. The truth is I, nor can any of us fix these problems on our own. We can do a few things with God's help, and listening to the Holy Spirit. However, the one thing we can do is trust in God's love and compassion and have faith things will work out for the best in the end. As the verses in Psalm 115 say, "The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us."

If we open our eyes, ears and hearts to our surroundings, we will see proof of the blessings God has poured out on us and we can be sure God will continue to bless us. If we keep that in mind, we can get some sleep, and rest better.

President Finch called for approval of the previous council meeting minutes. A motion to approve the June 14, 2021 council meeting minutes was made by Dan Tschirgi, seconded by Mitch Plochberger and passed via voice vote.

President Finch called on Council Treasurer Kay Pascoe to give the treasurers report, and copies of said report were distributed to council members.

Pastor David reports mileage for June is \$6.72. Pastor David wishes to donate his mileage. Pastor David was thanked for doing this. Pastor David reported the following activities for June 2021: Worship and Music meeting, Online Synod Assembly via Zoom, S.T.A.R.S., Lions Club, Church Council meeting, City Council, Ministerial Alliance, and Mutual Ministry. Pastor performed three office counseling visits, one Marriage request and multiple phone conversations, counseling, prayers and visits.

Pastor held four services for June, two communion Sunday worship services in person and online with Facebook Live, and two non-communion services in person and online with Facebook Live. Pastor prepared, printed and emailed worship bulletins, assisted with the S.T.A.R.S. presentation, 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, absent. Becky Weber reported in Delores's absence the following emailed report from Delores: Delores wishes to thank Glen and Donita Stubinger, Curt Stubinger, and Misty Schroeder for providing those infamous cinnamon rolls and beverages for our July 4 Fellowship following worship service. The August and September openings have been filled since the aforementioned emailed report. Delores also reports the Glo-necklaces, Glo-eyeglasses, etc... given to the children attending the July 4, 2021 Fireworks Celebration were well received, and the name and address of St. Paul's church was attached to each gift. Pastor David reports the food stand went well and brought in \$1746.00, which included a generous donation of \$500.00 from Gert and Hugo Strobel by way of Eugene Strobel.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi reports he can still use more technology volunteers to assist with Sunday Worship video services. They will be adequately trained. Dan also reports the use of a sound system was donated the night of the Fireworks Celebration which was a considerable savings to our church.

Worship and Music: Kathy Meller reports the August Hymns were selected via emails among the Worship and Music committee. She reports she thought the Patriotic Service went well. She noted it was nice that the American flags were passed out to all our veterans and church attendees. Kathy reports she thinks Communion has been going well.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner, absent, no report.

Church Improvement: Mitch Plochberger. Mitch reports that weeds have been sprayed, and an upstairs balcony light will be fixed. There was discussion with council members regarding plans for the upcoming remodeling of the church kitchen.

Stewardship and Finance: Paula Linsenbardt. No report.

Mutual Ministry: Jana Thompson, absent. Pastor David reports the changes of the Church Handbook have been finalized. He also reports the Mutual Ministry members have made small changes to the Time and Talent sheets. The committee also expressed interest in the plans for a possible Blessing Box to be placed on the church grounds.

Old Business: A discussion was held concerning the Blessing Box talked about during our last meeting. We decided to move forward with construction of the Blessing Box by Dan Tschirgi with help as needed from Mitchell Plochberger or others. The box should be finished in a month give or take. It will be installed across from the front of the church by the light pole. More information will follow concerning donations of non-perishable items.

New Business: President Zola introduced a discussion about WELCA and the meeting held after worship on July 11, 2021. Donita Stubinger was elected as the new President of WELCA and Makayla Stubinger as Vice President. It was noted that women of the church who are not raised in the Lutheran tradition are not familiar with WELCA and we hope to help everyone understand this is for all women and look for ways to welcome them.

Other discussion involved creating opportunities for men and families to connect with each other to be involved in church based activities.

There are several organizations at our church, which could interact with each other for outreach and making all feel welcome as God's people and a part of St. Paul's church family.

President Finch called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn as made by Dan Tschirgi. Seconded by Mitchell Plochberger and passed via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Pastor closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Weber, council secretary.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The July 13th Mobile Food Pantry was held at Trinity Lutheran parking lot in Russellville. Had very nice weather to serve 108 families with 310 people in those families. We had 25 volunteers to help serve in the community. The volunteers from Lohman Lion's Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Becky Weber and Audrey Bunch. Some of the items given out this month: produce boxes, Tortellini noodles, snack crackers, bags of flour, cereal, cheese popcorn, cottage cheese, variety of frozen meats, cheese sauce, chili, and assorted frozen fish. Next Mobile Food Pantry will be August 10th 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. Thanks to all the volunteers.

Margaret Circle: Get ready for Margaret Circle's next meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021! We will meet at Church at 6:30 PM, instead of at Debbie Boyce's home as previously planned. Marie Scheperle will host and Kay Pascoe will lead us in the study of God's Holy Word. If you're looking for an enjoyable evening of fellowship and Bible study, plan to attend. All women of the church, and their friends, are welcome. Please RSVP to Erika Gerth by phone, 573-635-6681, or email at erikagerth@embarqmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Meetings for the remainder of 2021 are as follows:

- † August 10 6:30 PM Church - Marie Scheperle hostess / Kay Pascoe Bible study.
- † October 5 6:30 PM Church
- † December 7 6:00 PM To Be Announced

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]

We met on Wednesday, July 7th for the July *HOT DOG PARTY*. Special thanks goes to Gary Bunch for grilling the Super Dogs. Yum! Yum! Buns were provided as well as delicious salads, baked beans, and special desserts all brought by the nearly 30 attendees. Members told of their memories of past celebrations and how 4th of July was celebrated in their families.

We will not meet in August. On September 8th we will resume our regular meetings. We hope to have a meeting in remembrance of Gertrude Strobel with a catered meal by Eugene Strobel. Watch for more information in future bulletins.

WELCA News: The St. Paul's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) met on Sunday, July 11th after church services for their Annual Meeting of 2021. There were 18 members present. We are pleased to announce that Donita Stubinger and Makayla Stubinger have volunteered to be President and Vice President respectively. Our thanks goes out to each of these women for accepting these positions of leadership and look forward to working with both of them in the years ahead.

Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, October 3rd. That is the date of our Annual Chili Supper here at St. Paul's. Kathy Meller and Marlene Carlson are working on work assignments and food donation listings. If you know that you will not be available to work or make your donations, please contact one of them as soon as possible.

Blessing of the new flag pole and raising the flags after morning service.



Sunday, July 4th: This year's Independence Day fell on a Sunday, the first time since 2010. So we were able to celebrate the Patriotic Service on that day. It was a wonderful service and day which included music, good food, singing and of course fireworks that filled the skies. Below are a few sights of the day.



Worship: We had eighteen veterans from most branches of the service process in after the gathering hymn. Each one carried a flag and placed it in the sand filled bucket. Pastor David read a poem "I Am A Veteran" by Andrea Brett.

Afterwards, the veterans and congregation said the pledge of allegiance while facing the United States flag. Then we all recited the pledge to the Christian flag.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God with liberty and justice for all."

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands; one Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe."

St. Paul's Choir:



Prior to the Children's sermon and the reading of the Word. Our wonderful Choir came up and sang "God Bless America." Zola Finch accompanied them on the keyboard and played beautifully as she always does. This was a wonderful tribute in asking God to watch over us and bless us with the peace only he can bring.

St. Paul's Guitar Band:



Kylee Scheperle played an amazing rendition of our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner." She was accompanied by Scott Soell who blended the cords to the music. We all stood and many of us sang the words together as we faced the newly installed and blessed flag pole flying the American and Christian flags.



VBS 2021: The Annual VBS was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville after having to miss last year due to the Covid virus. The theme this year was **"TREASURED, Discovering You're Priceless to God."**



St. Paul's was blessed to have ten kids present at VBS this year. Also joining the fun was Pastor David, Jason Plochberger, Mark Fischer, Misty Schroeder, Donita Stubinger, Laurie Koestner, Jahanna Koestner, Alan Scheperle, Marie Scheperle, and Jana Thompson.

Singing, Dancing, and having a GREAT time.



Pastor David teaching the kids on the lesson of: "Discovering You're Priceless To God."



Jana Thompson and Laurie Koestner teaching the kids.



Notes sent home by the teacher! Laurie Koestner

"Hot Dogs, Get Your Hot Dogs Here!!"

St. Paul's Youth hosted the 4th of July food stand, July 4th from 6:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. before the Lohman fireworks display. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, homemade desserts, pies and root beer floats were served. There wasn't hardly a crumb left!! Pies and root beer floats were a huge hit!!

The 4th of July Food Stand was a huge success!! The St. Paul's Youth and volunteers would like to thank everyone that volunteered their time and talents, donated delicious desserts, and many other items. The Youth and volunteers would like to give a shout out to the following people (plus all those not listed):

Audrey Bunch, Dave Boyce (sound equipment), Devin Koestner, Donita Stubinger, Julie Nelson, Katie Finch, Mackenzie Linnenbrink, Madison Linnenbrink, Marie Scheperle, Misty Schroeder, Pastor David, Rosemary Heidbreder, Scott Soell, Trevor Collins, Vanessa Soell, and Zola Finch

After a few expenses and start-up cash, the food stand's profit was a little over \$1,400!!!! A donation of \$1,000 will be made to Lutheran World Relief.

"You are Treasured"

Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held this year from July 11-15 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville. Area churches have joined forces to form Team VBS. This year's theme; "You are Treasured" began Sunday night July 11th. Kids from preschool through 6th grade came together as early as 6:00 p.m. for a meal provided by Misty Schroeder. After the meal, kids participated in the opening for the evening that included music, singing and dancing, and a video that introduced everyone to a kiddo from another country sharing his/her experiences because of loving and giving hearts to others from around the world. Kids then moved through three stations experiencing that day's bible verse. The stations included; story time, game time and imagination station (crafts and discovery). The week focused on the following verses:

"God knows you," "Oh Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me." (Psalm 139:1)

"God hears you." "I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy." (Psalm 116:1)

"God comforts you." "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others." (2 Corinthians 1:4)

"God forgives you." "But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious, and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love." (Nehemiah 9:17)

"God chooses you ." "I have called you by name; you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

A little over 30 kids heard and explored these messages all week long. St. Paul's had 10 kids participate this year!!!

"Attention, Attention!!" Sunday school will begin in September!!!

Moms, Dads, Grandmas, Grandpas, Aunts, Uncles, tell all of your precious children about Sunday School, bring them and consider volunteering to teach once a month. Sunday School ranges from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

Calendar of Events and Schedules

August 1st, Sunday: Fellowship Hour hosted by Freiner and Strobel families after worship.

August 3rd Tuesday: Worship and Music Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

August 9th, Monday: Church Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

August 10th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:15 p.m.

August 10th, Tuesday: Margaret Circle in Church basement at 6:30 p.m. - Marie Scheperle hostess / Kay Pascoe Bible study

August 18th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

August 23rd, Monday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays.

Pastor David normally uses Fridays as his day off.

Acolyte Schedule

Aug-1	Mackenzie Linnenbrink
Aug-8	Kara Freiner
Aug-15	Madison Linnenbrink
Aug-22	Mattson Stoermer
Aug-29	Kiefer Freiner

Readers Schedule

Aug-1	Frank Pascoe
Aug-8	Laurie Koestner
Aug-15	Jana Thompson
Aug-22	Nicole Benne
Aug-29	Jessica Stoermer

Usher Schedule

Aug-01	Delores Vlach	Becky Weber
Aug-08	Zola Finch	Laurie Koestner
Aug-15	Paula Linsenbardt	Kathy Meller
Aug-22	Mitchell Plochberger	Jana Thompson
Aug-29	Dan Tschirgi	Delores Vlach

Greeter Schedule

Aug-01	Frank Pascoe	Donald Weber
Aug-08	Stacy Bubach	Abby Bubach
Aug-15	Don Buchta	Audrey Bunch
Aug-22	Gary Elliott	Richard Heidbreder
Aug-29	Laurie Koestner	Jerry Koestner

Song Leader

Aug-1	Dan Tschirgi
Aug-8	Kathy Meller
Aug-15	Dan Tschirgi
Aug-22	Kathy Meller
Aug-29	Dan Tschirgi

Audio / Video Technician

Aug-1	Roger Pennell
Aug-8	Dan Tschirgi
Aug-15	Roger Pennell
Aug-22	Dan Tschirgi
Aug-29	Roger Pennell

Communion Assistants

Aug-8	Trish Russell
Aug-22	Marie Scheperle

* Communion Days noted in Yellow