



Pastor's Message

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24

New Year's Resolutions!

Every New Year we do an old thing, we make promises to ourselves to do things during the New Year to make our lives better. I Googled 'top ten resolutions for 2022' and found this from Go Skills. Com:

1. Exercise more
2. Lose weight
3. Get organized
4. Learn a new skill or hobby
5. Live life to the fullest
6. Save more money / spend less money
7. Quit smoking
8. Spend more time with family and friends
9. Travel more
10. Read more

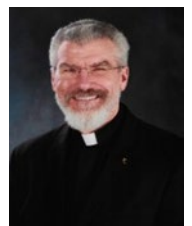
It is a worthy list and would be helpful and beneficial to one's health and well-being. Number 7 should be at the top of the list since it not only benefits us, but also others who are nearby. But the list seems difficult, demanding, and less than hopeful or joyful.

However, what if we took the focus off our self and put it on someone, or something else? How would that affect us and what effect would it have on others? Perhaps a better list for 2022 might be:

1. Give thanks to God for each new day
2. Pray for someone else each day
3. Do one kindness for someone or another of God's creatures each day
4. Call, Text, Email someone and say something nice each day
5. Love your neighbor as yourself each day.

This is a good start in only five things. Even if you do only one or two each day you will be overcome with untold joy, and hope for a better world that you have helped create.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 Misty Schroeder
9 Marshall Griffin
10 Jenetia Gibler
10 Colin Walters
11 Lucas Carrel
16 Sherrie Hanks
20 David Russell
21 Kathy Meller
30 Kaitlyn Finch



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Kendall & Hope Stubinger 2006

Continued prayers for healing and comfort. Vanessa Pyatt, Julie Carel, Donna Viles, Jahanna Koestner, Melba Ehm, and the family of Delemar "Del" Ehrhardt.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
DECEMBER 05	85 / 94	\$3,599.00
DECEMBER 12	78 / 98	\$3,991.98
DECEMBER 19	77 / 114	\$1,989.00
DECEMBER 26	77 / 78	\$8,653.00

In Addition:

Sunday School - \$2.18
Christmas Treats - \$189.00

Special Thanks to:

Gift: Richard & Ryan Heidbreder - \$5,000.00
Gift: Leon & Carol Beck - \$250.00
Gift: Glenda Kappelmann & Rick Clawson - \$250.00
Gift: Glenn & Carma Gibler - \$300.00

Ministry:

Christmas Eve Offering: \$645.00 divided 3 ways to Oaks Indian Center; River City Habitat for Humanity, and Samaritan Center
Christmas Day Envelope - \$610.00 to benefit Heisinger Bluffs Benevolence Fund.

Ask the Pastor

Question: *What is Epiphany and why do we celebrate it?*

Answer: Merriam-Webster defines epiphany as "a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way."

In Christianity, we celebrate the feast of Epiphany on January 6th, after the 12 days of Christmas. This is the day set aside as a remembrance of the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child who is Jesus, born of a virgin and the Holy Spirit. The Magi, also known as 'Wise Men' or 'Kings' are reported to have come from the East a far distance from Israel. Therefore, they were not Hebrew but in fact Gentiles.

Eight days after Jesus' birth, he was presented at the Temple to have done what the Law required. When the Priest Simeon saw Jesus, he held him and prayed to God, "my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a *light for revelation to the Gentiles* and for glory to your people Israel."

When the Magi, (Gentiles) found Jesus it was revealed to them that he was the King of the Jews. Through tradition, we put the Magi at the cradle of baby Jesus twelve days after his birth. But in order to rid the kingdom of this child, King Herod has all male babies two years old and under killed. After Jesus left the Temple, having been blessed by Simeon, Luke 2:39 tells us, "When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth." Matthew 2:7-12 tells us the Magi followed the Star until it stopped over the place of Jesus. There they went into a house (not a stable) where they saw the child (not baby) with Mary his mother. Because of King Herod's actions, we believe Jesus was 18 to 24 months old at the time of the Magi's appearance.

Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor David

Congregational Council Meeting, December 13, 2021 **Respectfully submitted by Pastor David Viles**

The December Congregational Council meeting was canceled. Two items of business were conducted via email.

1. Approval of the 2022 church budget. Council members responded with a positive affirmation.
2. Becky Weber has decided not to seek re-election for the Council Secretary position. Paula Linsenbardt has decided not to seek re-election for the Council Stewardship position. Therefore, council members were requested to consider nominations for her replacement. If you are interested in one of these positions, please let Pastor David or Zola Finch know as soon as you are able before the Annual Meeting on January 16th.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

The spirit of Christmas abounded as members of Margaret Circle gathered at the Church on December 7, 2021 for the final meeting of this calendar year. We were especially happy that Donna Viles was with us for our traditional Christmas supper, as well as her special guest, Pastor David! Delectable Christmas goodies were the perfect ending for our meal! Erika led us in discussion about Christmas hymns and carols, their importance for celebrating the advent of Jesus and the joy that his birth brings to the world. Election of officers for 2022 took place: Erika Gerth will once again serve as president, Kay Pascoe will continue in her role as secretary-treasurer, and Kathryn Linsenbardt continues as stewardship chairperson. Donita Stubinger reported that she has received donations of personal care items from her dentist for inclusion in the Buddy Packs of children attending Russellville's elementary school. An offering was received and Heifer International and Oaks Indian Missions were the recipients of the Circle's generosity. The schedule of meetings for the coming year was determined, in addition to hosts and Bible study leaders. Margaret Circle's next meeting will take place on Tuesday evening, February 1, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Church. Donita Stubinger will host and Ruth Stubinger will lead the Bible study. As always, all women of the church, and their friends, are welcome!

Quilt Day Update: Jeannette Fischer

As of now, we are planning to resume making quilts in February. It will be good to get together again and construct quilts for important mission needs. WELCA will meet on January 16 following the church annual meeting and at that time we will make plans and set dates. So, ladies during the long cold days in January, please think about constructing some quilt tops in preparation for our work. If you are in need of fabrics, please contact Jeannette as we have a good supply stored at church.



Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger

As the Christmas season approached during December, the Jr. Lutherans once again placed the Mitten Tree in front of the sanctuary. And once again our faithful and generous congregation came through with dozens of mittens, gloves, socks and hats to fill our mitten tree. These items will be given to Christie Murphy (nurse) or one of the counselors at Cole R-1 Russellville School to distribute among the children during this January's cold weather. The final tally was: 48 pairs of gloves, 48 pairs of socks, 12 pairs of mittens, 4 pair of fuzzy house socks, 16 stocking hats, and 5 glove and hat sets. Thank you for showing Christ's love to all children in need.

WELCA: Donita Stubinger / Marlene Carlson

St. Paul's WELCA met on Monday, December 13th in the church basement. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Audrey Bunch, Treasurer reported that the WELCA German Cookie Sale had been held on Sunday, December 5 with a profit of \$1,026.50. This was a very successful event with cookies selling out in 2 hours. We want to thank everyone who brought items for the Cookie Sale and those that attended and purchased cookies.

Thankoffering envelope donations totaled \$1,165. This offering will be sent to our National Women of the ELCA office and the funds will be distributed nationally and worldwide.

WELCA also wishes to thank Dan Tschirgi for his work in building a stable for the Nativity Set which WELCA purchased last month. It looks great setting outside of the church.

After discussion of local organizations and group needs, WELCA made the following donations:

City of Lohman	\$1,000
Lohman Community Corporation	\$500
Russellville/Lohman Fire Department	\$500
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$400
Food Bank of Central MO	\$300
Mobility Worldwide	\$300
Cole R-I Care Program	\$250
Samaritan Center	\$200
Salvation Army	\$150

St. Paul members gave 563 lbs of non-perishable food to the Samaritan Center throughout this year. WELCA's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 16th immediately following the Annual Meeting of St. Paul's. We invite all Women of St. Paul's to attend and participate in this meeting.

Advent Dinner: Kathy Meller



The Advent Dinner, hosted by the Worship and Music Committee, was held on Sunday, December 12th. As those in attendance entered the Friendship Hall, they were greeted with tables adorned with purple and gold. Advent Wreath center pieces with twinkle lights decorated the tables as well as candy kisses for everyone to enjoy. The evening began with sparkling juice being served at 5:30 and the meal beginning at 6:00. The delicious meal was catered by Reinhardt Circle so a special thank you goes out to Misty Schroeder for all her help and hard work that evening. The meal of ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, and mouthwatering dessert (including ice cream for Pastor David) was served by the Worship and Music Committee with masks and gloves for everyone's safety.

After the meal, the program titled Christ Will Bring Light to the World was presented. Pastor David opened with a short reflection about the origin and meaning of the Advent Wreath. Kathy Meller sang Love Came Down at Christmas. The program continued with the lighting of the Advent Wreath candles, scripture readings, reflections, and songs. A special thank you to our readers Frank and Kay Pascoe

and Jerry and Laurie Koestner. And a very special thank you to Zola Finch for playing the piano for the program.

Thank you to those that contributed to the free will offering to help offset costs. Those that came, took home a small votive candle and a bookmark. A fun and meaningful evening was had by the 58 in attendance.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The December 14th Mobile Food Pantry had an outstanding amount of families and people served, we ran out of items to give away at 3:00 P.M. The weather was great for the volunteers to be outside helping in the community at Trinity Lutheran church parking lot. Plus had a free rummage sale for people to take what they could use. Items given out this month were produce boxes, (avacodas, carrots, collard greens, eggs, leaks, lettuce, milk, mushrooms, and potatoes), chocolate cookie crumbs, graham cracker crumbs, Fun yuns chips, laundry soap, breakfast breads, frozen pizzas, and assorted frozen meats, (beef, chicken, pork, salmon, and turkey). Had 152 families with 444 people in those families. Volunteers were Gary and Alberta from the Lohman Lions Club, Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Becky Weber, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Pantry will be January 11th at 1:15 P.M.

Christmas Caroling: Kathy Meller / Marie Scheperle



On the clear full moon evening of December 19th, St. Paul's Christmas carolers gathered at church at 5:00 p.m. to go caroling around the Lohman area visiting 6 homes.. With the help of Harry and Jana Thompson's 15 passenger van, they were able to ride in style on their caroling adventure. Thank you Harry and Jana. 17 carolers came to sing loud and proud and spread Christmas joy.

Jana also furnished flashing Christmas light necklaces to add to the festive mood. After singing, everyone gathered at Mark and Kathy Meller's house for pizzas, a wide selection of snacks, cookies and drinks. It was a fun night of fellowship, socializing, and spreading the good news of Jesus' birth. Thank you Mark and Kathy for your hospitality being gracious hosts.

Christmas Play, Sunday, December 19, 2020



Once Upon a Christmas Cheery, A Night to Remember

November, 2021 brought a month of rehearsals for St. Paul's Christmas Program. Once Upon A Christmas Cheery was full of a wide range of cast members from St. Paul's Church. So many characters came together for three Sundays of rehearsals, including one evening rehearsal. Our St. Paul's members did such an incredible job of portraying A Night to Remember (the Christmas story)!!! There were volunteers to work the sound and video equipment, keyboardist, actors, actresses, set designers, stage builders, costumes, meal planners and cleaner-uppers (for after rehearsals), and so many more volunteers to make this program happen. All of the volunteers' hard work and commitment is greatly appreciated!! We have so much talent in our midst, it's truly a blessing!!

Once Upon a Christmas Cheery opens up to a narrative of Jesus' sacrifices, then to a baby shower for the expectant mother Mary. The program was interrupted by two characters that roamed in off the street, hungry and cold, named Gabby and Mick. The program continues to tell the Christmas story through the use of many of our actors and actresses. During the storytelling program, Gabby and Mick continue to interrupt with their own dialog of how Mary and Joseph must have felt at the news of Mary's pregnancy and the birth of Jesus. One such interruption required an usher to ask Gabby and Mick to leave!!! Gabby and Mick promised to remain quiet during the rest of the story. The story closes with Gabby and Mick being filled with the joy that comes when the story of Jesus' birth is told again!! So much joy in fact, that they do not hesitate to expose themselves for who they really are; angels Gabriel and Michael!!!







The directors of the program want to thank everyone's involvement in Once Upon a Christmas Cheery!!! There were a few last minute cast changes. Those who were approached to step in, did so without fail, and of that, the directors are grateful!!

After an eye surgery, Pastor David had to bow out of the play and Interim Pastor Donald Weber had to step up to the role of the Angel Gabriel at the last minute. He was awesome as an angel, but would have made a terrific pastor.



Jerry Koestner took Donald's place as the pastor in the program and did a masterful job of portraying a member of the clergy.

All the talent, time and effort is much appreciated!!

Calendar of Events and Schedules

- January 4th**, Monday: Music and Worship meeting by email to choose hymns.
January 5th, Wednesday: 3:00 pm, Fruendschaft Gruppe will take down the Christmas tree.
January 9th Sunday: Christmas Cookie Fellowship in basement after worship.
January 10th, Monday: Church Council meeting at 6:00 pm in the church basement.
January 11th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:15 p.m.
January 16th, Sunday: St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be held after worship service.
January 16th, Sunday: WELCA's Annual Meeting will be held following the Annual Meeting.
January 18th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.
January 19th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry will meet at 5:30 pm in the church basement.
January 24th, Monday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays.
 Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

Usher Schedule

Jan-02	Becky Weber	Zola Finch
Jan-09	Laurie Koestner	Paula Linsenbardt
Jan-16	Kathy Meller	Mitchell Plochberger
Jan-23	Jana Thompson	Dan Tschirgi
Jan-30	Delores Vlach	Becky Weber

Acolyte Schedule

Jan-02	
Jan-09	Madison Linnenbrink
Jan-16	Kara Freiner
Jan-23	Mattson Stoermer
Jan-30	Mackenzie Linnenbrink

Greeter Schedule

Jan-02	Laurie Koestner	Jerry Koestner
Jan-09	Frank Pascoe	Donald Weber
Jan-16	Stacy Bubach	Abby Bubach
Jan-23	Don Buchta	Audrey Bunch
Jan-30	Laurie Koestner	Jerry Koestner

Readers Schedule

Jan-02	Lori Meyer
Jan-09	Laurie Koestner
Jan-16	Audrey Bunch
Jan-23	Jana Thompson
Jan-30	Frank Pascoe

Song Leader

Jan-02	Dan Tschirgi
Jan-09	Kathy Meller
Jan-16	Cameron Freiner
Jan-23	Kathy Meller
Jan-30	Dan Tschirgi

Audio / Video Technician

Jan-02	Roger Pennell
Jan-09	Dan Tschirgi
Jan-16	Dan Tschirgi
Jan-23	Roger Pennell
Jan-30	Roger Pennell

Communion Assistants

Jan-09	Audrey Bunch
Jan-23	Rosemary Heidbreder

Altar Flowers for the Month

Kathryn Linsenbardt

* **Communion Days noted in Yellow**