

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 66 No. 3

March - 2022

Pastor's Message

"Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life." Psalm 54:4

We are only two months into the year and just now beginning the third, and I'm already exhausted. I know in a few months I will be saying, "where has this year gone?" But for now, I wonder how I will get there. Church family, I know you sometimes have these same thoughts and I also know that we all get through them. So this is my message for you during March and the coming months: You will be fine, the sun will come up in the morning and God will give you another day to do your best and look for his blessings. I love the scripture above for I know God truly is my helper, without him I can do nothing at all. He also lifts up my life when I'm filled with despair and when I'm filled with joy.

This evening as I write this I am listening to the song "You Raise Me Up" sung by Josh Groban. My soul echoes the words, "You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains; You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas; I am strong, when I am on your shoulders; You raise me up, to more than I can be."

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David



Ask the Pastor

Question: *What is the meaning of Jesus' temptation for forty days in the wilderness?*

Answer: *Matthew 4:3 The devil said to [Jesus], "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."* **Hedonism** – The pursuit of pleasure.

Matthew 4:6 The devil said to [Jesus], "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give his angels charge of you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" **Egotism** – The thought of self-importance.

Matthew 4:8-9 "Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Materialism – The seeking of material possessions as more important than spiritual values.

Jesus experiences the same big temptations we do in our lives and although we are weak and often fail to overcome these, Jesus does. He also gives us the answers to help us through this Lenten journey. **(1)** "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." **(2)** "Again it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" **(3)** "Begone, Satan! for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

Listen to Jesus and pray for the Holy Spirit's help to give you strength through God.

Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor David

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jeannette Fischer
- 3 Kyle Crossman
- 4 Glen Stubinger
- 6 Chase Pistel
- 6 Melvin Stubinger
- 7 Charles Ferrell
- 8 Jacob Loesch
- 9 Rich Prosch
- 11 Wendy Barker
- 12 Hope Stubinger
- 12 J.D. Murphy
- 13 Cori Soell
- 14 Carol Elliott
- 15 Jayce Tschirgi
- 16 Lisa Beard
- 16 Tom Kirchner
- 16 Elizabeth Russell
- 18 Rosemary Heidbreder
- 18 Sloane Heidbreder
- 19 Richard Heidbreder
- 20 Keagan Strobel
- 21 Paula Linsenbardt
- 22 Laura Plochberger
- 22 Landon Plochberger
- 23 Cameron Freiner
- 23 Dan Tschirgi
- 26 Lauren Stubinger
- 27 David Finch
- 28 Brandon Williams
- 28 Wolfgang Neenan
- 29 Erika Gerth
- 30 Harry Thompson

FINANCIAL UPDATE

| Month/Day | Attendance Phys./Virtual | Offering |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>FEBRUARY 06</i> | <i>79 / 125</i> | <i>\$3,762.00</i> |
| <i>FEBRUARY 13</i> | <i>90 / 122</i> | <i>\$3,393.30</i> |
| <i>FEBRUARY 20</i> | <i>85 / 127</i> | <i>\$1,594.00</i> |
| <i>FEBRUARY 27</i> | <i>104 / 120</i> | <i>\$1,808.00</i> |

In Addition:

Sunday School - \$4.00
Epistle - \$62.00

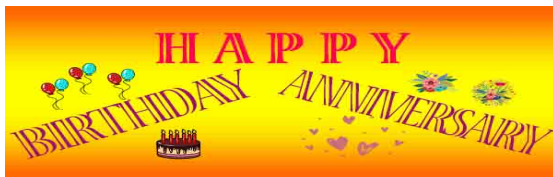


We have a new sign on Main Street at the entrance of our Church. Actually there are two signs back to back with an arrow pointing up the hill to direct people to the Blessing Box in front of our church.

It reads:

**BLESSING
BOX
DEUTERONOMY 15:11**

The scripture is: "Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Angela & Curt Bracher 2020
- 19 Desmond & Irma Pascoe 1995
- 25 Shawn & Jessica Stoermer 2006

Daylight Savings Time Change

March 13, 2022

**Set your clocks forward one hour
on Saturday night at bedtime**



Continued prayers for healing and comfort.
Vanessa Pyatt, Julie Carel, Donna Viles, and
Jahanna Koestner

Congregational Council Meeting, February 14, 2022
Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe

† At 6:05 pm on February 14th a regular meeting of the church Council of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was called to order by the Council President Zola Finch. Present were council members Delores Vlach, Kathy Meller, Mitch Plochberger, Laurie Koestner, Frank Pascoe, Jana Thompson, and Stacy Bubach. Absent was member Dan Tschirgi. Also present were Pastor David Viles and Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe. The previous minutes were not requested.

† Pastor Viles opened the meeting with a prayer. President Finch called upon Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to present a financial report. She shared financial statements dated Jan. 31, 2022. These were reviewed by Council members. Questions were answered and resolved.

† President Finch then called upon Pastor David Viles to present his regular monthly report of activities to the Council. Pastor's report detailed 42 miles of automobile travel for which Pastor will be reimbursed \$23.52, as the Council approved Mitch Plochberger's motion, which was seconded and approved via voice vote. Pastor's report went on to detail his attendance at eight meetings and five personal or phone visits. A number of other activities were reported among them his covering for Pastor Ed Merckel of Trinity Russellville from Jan. 5th thru Jan. 21st, while Pastor Ed was on vacation. Pastor David officiated at five January services at St. Paul's, and one hospital communion service.

† Council President Finch called upon guest parishioner Becky Weber who had requested the Council hear her suggestion for beginning at St. Paul's a Pro-Life group within our congregation. Becky presented several ideas and concerns in order to bring Pro-Life sentiments and actions to our church body. She spoke of her personal concern and commitment to protecting the life of the yet-to-be-born. She envisioned our actions at St. Paul's to be "not a march against abortion" but rather a "march for Life". Becky asked that our congregation focus on the sanctity of life and attempt to do more in practical care and support of women in need who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy. She indicated that a practical effort might involve a mission project like the one done at Trinity Russellville, that is to collect funds for a group known as the "Pregnancy Help Center of Jefferson City". This local group offers free testing and licensed consultation for those facing unplanned pregnancy. Becky suggested that this might be an option for one or more special offerings during the Lenten season. She also enumerated several other local groups which we might support in some fashion in the future, among them VITAE, Birthright, or Lutheran Children & Family Services of Columbia, Mo.

† Becky's comments and suggestions were discussed by the Council members. It was suggested by some members that we might also focus on supplying baby and infant items to these organization to aid in their general efforts. {note: a copy of Becky's full presentation will be available in printed form upon request.}

President Finch called upon the various Committee Chairpersons to present their monthly reports:

Evangelism: Delores Vlach expressed thanks to Glen & Donita Stubinger for the excellent pastries and fruit served on February Fellowship Sunday. What a treat!

Delores noted that the new member reception will be postponed until March 6th. This will be held on a Fellowship Sunday and may include new members-to-be Helen Girard, Angie Stubinger, Mark Schroeder, Ruth Stubinger, and Hope Stubinger. **NOTE:** *In the days after the Council meeting nine others requested membership and were approved by Council. They are Melissa Thompson, Shawn Hillen, Ashleigh Creel, Leland Stuart, Stacy Steele, Brooke Steele, Emma Steele, Andrew "Drew" Steele, and Harley Enowski.*

Delores requested the Church make a renewed effort to have persons sign up for the Fellowship Hours after Sunday services. There are at least six open spots yet to fill, and persons are encouraged to sign up for these special events. She asked that the Fellowship events be noted in each Epistle that goes out. Delores also requested input as her committee prepares for the annual Pancake Breakfast. Her committee will be discussing the date, what to serve, and how to plan, as it has been suggested that

dine- in and take-out be offered. This was much discussed by the Council members. Delores's committee will decide at their upcoming meeting.

Technology: President Finch mentioned the need for one additional sound board volunteer.

Worship & Music: Chairperson Kathy Meller reported on the activities discussed at their Feb. 8th meeting. A suggestion was made that some more contemporary music be played during the prelude. This was done on Feb. 13th. Comments were positive. Variations will follow in the future. The volume of the song leader's microphone was discussed. Getting the handheld microphone set at the optimum level for all song leaders is a work in progress which will be undertaken soon. All hymns have been chosen for the Lenten season. Some special music during Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday will be arranged with a choir. Setting Three has been chosen. A hymn of the month may begin this fall. There will be Mid-Lenten services held in the main sanctuary. There will be no refreshments this year. Holden Evening Prayer will be sung. Expanding the responsibilities of an enlarged Altar Guild was discussed. Erika Gerth will continue to find readers on each Sunday. It was noted that our Bishop, the Rev. Susan Candea, will be at St. Paul's Sunday Service on April 3rd.

Parish Education: Laurie Koestner reported on the ongoing Sunday School efforts. While the attendance is very low, additional teachers would be ideal. She is hopeful that things will return to normal in the future. Laurie is currently using "Ministry-To-Children.com" for materials. This service offers a free curriculum, lessons and ideas for Sunday school programs.

Church Improvement: Mitch Plochberger reported on the work and concerns with the interior lighting and electrical issues. He has had meetings and consultation with Ott Electrical of Jefferson City and their representatives. Mitch also indicated that work on the two front doors and work on the two wooden doors entering the sanctuary are ongoing considerations. He is also in consultation with the Safety & Security Advisory Group regarding needed security cameras.

Stewardship & Finance: Stacy Bubach reported consultation with her committee members regarding the distribution of the Strobel gift. She will discuss the Council's recommendation to disperse 10% to local charities. Stacy also reported the welcome addition of Liz Russell to her committee of four.

Mutual Ministry: Committee Chair Jana Thompson reported ongoing consultation with her members. She thanked Pastor David for his diligence to the newly established Blessing Box in front of the church. She indicated that he has paid much necessary attention to its use and upkeep. Her committee has discussed how better to make the local community and surrounding areas aware of its existence thru local signage and other promotional efforts. New signage will soon be positioned. A new focus on the Box's availability to provide baby and infant items and items for feminine hygiene was discussed by the Council. Jana and Pastor David suggested that including a phone number would allow persons using the Box to request specific items unavailable in the Box itself.

Old Business: Discussion of the Blessing Box was continued.

New Business: The Council discussed a proposal to donate 10% of the \$96,000 Strobel gift to local charities, a suggestion proposed by parishioner Frank Pascoe at the Annual Congregational Meeting of January 16th. With general discussion and agreement offered by the council members, several local charities were suggested. It was agreed that the local Jefferson City Rape & Abuse Crisis Service and the Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri of Columbia Mo. would be the two charities to each receive \$5,000. This was proposed upon a motion offered by Frank Pascoe, seconded by Laurie Koestner, and accepted via voice vote.

Also, under new business Pastor David presented a letter from a former parishioner at St. Paul's. This was Shirley Hetherington of Altoona, WI. This former member is a daughter of the Henry Woehrer

family. She enclosed a cheque for \$7,000 as a gift to St. Paul's. Her letter stated this was a gift to the Perpetual Cemetery Fund, or for any other need of the Church. After discussion it was decided upon a motion by Frank Pascoe, seconded by Laurie Koestner, to divide the amount between the Cemetery Fund and the Church Operating fund. This was accepted via voice vote.

The President then called for the adjournment of the meeting at 8:10 PM. The Council meeting adjourned, and Pastor David led the members in the recitation of the Our Father.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

The members of Margaret Circle will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Church. Debbie Boyce will host and Erika Gerth will lead the Bible study. We look forward to our time together, and welcome those interested in our ministry to join with us as we learn more about God's holy word and its meaning for our lives. Please RSVP to Erika (erikagerth@embarqmail.com) or Debbie (hisunshine75@hotmail.com).

Quilters Working with Love: Donita Stubinger

Blanket Making Days were a huge success. On Wednesday, February 15th we had 20 volunteers come to cut, pin, sew, thread needles, tie clip and hem quilts together. We repeated the process again on February 23rd with 14 ladies and gents to enjoy this worthwhile adventure. We elected to schedule one more day on Monday, February 28th to finish our bright and colorful quilts with 14 volunteers who came to work and enjoy this time together. We completed a total of 35 blankets that can now be shipped to Lutheran World Relief. Some will remain here at St. Paul's church for situation that may occur during the year such as homes destroyed by fire, homeless individuals, or anyone in need of a special gift during a difficult time. When you have the opportunity, check out these beautiful blankets that took many hours to create for someone to use. Take a moment to thank the creative individuals who donated the time and materials as well as hard work. Thank God who helps us provide a quilt to someone who will be very happy to receive this gift made with love and lots of fellowship in the process. Please consider joining this quilting experience next year in February to make another 35 quilts to provide for someone in need. No experience is required. The group of quilters would like to say a special Thank You to Donita Stubinger for the wonderful lunches she prepared for everyone each day.



Snow Removal:

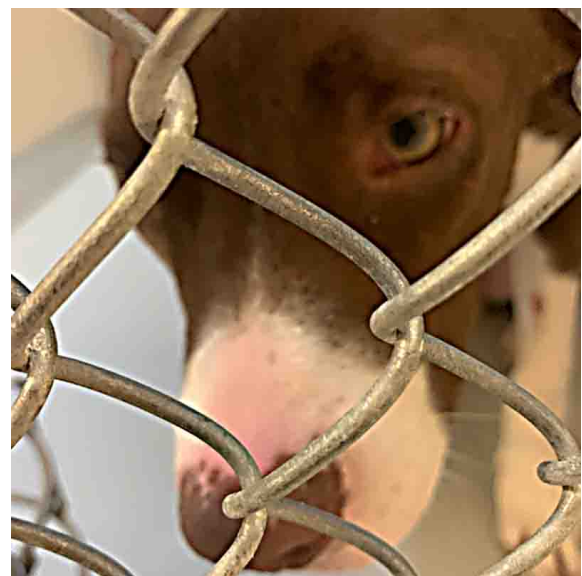
Thank you to Mitchell Plochberger, Bethanee Plochberger, and others who cleared the parking lot and church steps during the snow and ice events of February. I'm not sure what we would do without their hard work and dedication to keep us safe and able to attend church during bad weather.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

Prayers for nice weather for many months serving at the Mobile Food Pantry have been answered with really great weather to be outside serving the community. We had sunshine and warm weather for the February 8th Mobile Food Pantry that was held at the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot, with 179 families served and 532 people in those families. Some of the items given out: produce boxes (carrots, cheese, milk, onions, peach cups, potatoes, tomatoes), wheat thin crackers, sparkling water, saltine crackers, pepperoni flavored dip, lunchables, and frozen turkey wings. Thanks to all the people that come out and volunteer with this community wide service. From the Lohman Lions club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran were Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Becky Weber, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Pantry will be March 8th at 1:00 P.M.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger

Jr. Lutherans met at the Capital City Animal Shelter on Monday, February 21, 2022 at 1:00 pm. There were 39 children and parents and grandparents that visited with the animals. Old towels, dog treats, toys, food for both dogs and cats and bleach tabs were appreciated by the employees at the Kennel. Thanks to Donita for putting this all together and Jacklyn Wood for sending a few pictures.



Afterwards we went to Moreau Meat Market where we toured the processing of meats. We learned about chicken, beef, pork, sheep, goats, and rabbits that they sell. While there we enjoyed cupcakes, bar cookies, ice cream and drinks. We thank the Animal Shelter and Moreau Meat Market for allowing these visits and their time in explaining about their work.

In March, our group will help with the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on March 20th, the third Sunday of the month. Then on Saturday, April 16th at 9:00 am the Jr. Lutherans will enjoy a continental breakfast and will be dying Easter Eggs. Each child will color one dozen eggs to take home. Everyone is encouraged to bring their bikes to ride around the church afterward and enjoy the morning. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun with this group, both members and visitors.

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

Our gruppe met on February 14 with 22 in attendance. After we enjoyed a delicious valentine dinner prepared by Donita and Glen, we accomplished a lot of work. Numerous light bulbs were replaced, one of the stove ovens was cleaned, all the pew pencils were sharpened and 3 sets of quilt frames were set up and quilts were pinned to them. Thanks to all who helped. Our next meeting will be March 14, the delicious meals are \$8.00 each and a great time to fellowship with others and do a little light work. If you have not been before please consider to come and enjoy. All are welcome.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

Twenty six STARS attended our February meeting and we enjoyed a variety of casseroles along with salads, vegies and desserts. Afterward Jana Thompson gave an interesting presentation about her work as a Parents as Teachers coordinator with the Russellville School District. She explained the history of the program and we were proud to find out this nation wide pre-school education idea began right here in Missouri. In addition, we learned Erika Gerth contributed to its organization. Also, we were inspired by a display of Thompson Family summer cousin camp books which Jana compiles and prints each year for their grandchildren. We will meet again on Wednesday, March 2. Our menu will consist of soups and sandwiches plus contributions of those in attendance. Our program will be presented by Pastor Gene and Gladys Moll and they will share interesting experiences of maintaining a Free Little Library in the corner of their front yard. Make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 if you plan to attend.



Bishop Susan Candea from our Central States Synod, will be visiting St. Paul's Church on Sunday, April 3rd. Bishop Candea is hoping to visit all of the congregations in our Synod this year. She will preach the gospel on that Sunday and join us for our monthly Fellowship Hour after worship.

Easter Lilies:



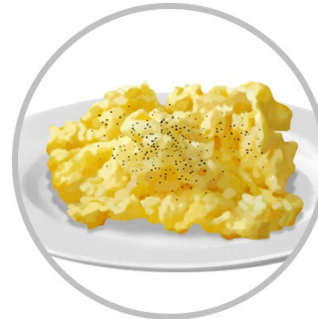
If you would like to purchase a Lily for the Easter Season, please contact Kathryn Linsenhardt at 782-4683 to place your order. Please let her know if the Lily is in memory or in honor of someone so they can be recognized in the bulletin. They are \$9:00 each this year, and orders are due by April 3rd. There is some speculation that this may be the last year to purchase lilies in bulk as many growers are switching to a different product for increased profits.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lohman, MO

**ANNUAL PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE
 BREAKFAST**

MARCH 20, 2022 SERVING FROM 10 AM -1 PM



ALL YOU CARE TO EAT
Pancakes & Scrambled Eggs
Sausage, Applesauce, Coffee, Milk,
Chocolate Milk, & Orange Juice
 (SUGAR FREE SYRUP AVAILABLE)

ADULTS: \$9.00 KIDS: 6 yrs. to 12 yrs. \$5.00
KIDS 5 AND UNDER: FREE



Calendar of Events and Schedules

- March 1st**, Tuesday: Music and Worship meeting in the basement to choose hymns.
- March 2nd**, Wednesday: 11:30 am STARS will meet for lunch and a presentation.
- March 2nd**, Wednesday: 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary.
- March 3rd**, Thursday: 6:00 pm Safety and Security meeting in the basement.
- March 6th**, Sunday: 10:15 am Fellowship Coffee hour with reception for 14 new members.
- March 8th**, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.
- March 9th**, Wednesday: Midweek Lenten service in the sanctuary
- March 13th**, Sunday: Daylight Savings Time begins. Change your clocks forward 1 hour Sat. night.
- March 14th**, Monday: Church Council meeting at 6:00 pm in the church basement.
- March 15th**, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- March 16th**, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry will meet at 5:00 pm in the church basement.
- March 16th**, Wednesday: Midweek Lenten service in the sanctuary
- March 20th**, Sunday: Pancake Breakfast in the basement.
- March 23rd**, Wednesday: Midweek Lenten service in the sanctuary
- March 27th**, Sunday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
- March 30th**, Wednesday: Midweek Lenten service in the sanctuary

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

Usher Schedule

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| Mar -06 | Laurie Koestner | Stacy Bubach |
| Mar -13 | Kathy Meller | Frank Pascoe |
| Mar -20 | Jana Thompson | Dan Tschirgi |
| Mar -27 | Delores Vlach | Frank Pascoe |

Acolyte Schedule

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Mar -06 | Madison Linnenbrink |
| Mar -13 | Kiefer Freiner |
| Mar -20 | Oliver Stoermer |
| Mar -27 | Madison Linnenbrink |

Greeter Schedule

| | | |
|---------|----------------|----------------|
| Mar -06 | Audrey Bunch | Gary Elliott |
| Mar -13 | Devin Koestner | Jerry Koestner |
| Mar -20 | David Russell | Trish Russell |
| Mar -27 | Frank Pascoe | Donald Weber |

Readers Schedule

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| Mar -06 | Devin Koestner |
| Mar -13 | Jana Thompson |
| Mar -20 | Jessica Stoermer |
| Mar -27 | Nicole Benne |

Song Leader

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Mar -06 | Kathy Meller |
| Mar -13 | Cameron Freiner |
| Mar -20 | Kathy Meller |
| Mar -27 | Dan Tschirgi |

Audio / Video Technician

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| Mar -06 | Dan Tschirgi |
| Mar -13 | Dan Tschirgi |
| Mar -20 | Roger Pennell |
| Mar -27 | Roger Pennell |

Communion Assistants

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Mar -13 | Marie Scheperle |
| Mar -27 | Donald Weber |

Altar Flowers for the Month

Rosemary Heidbreder

Communionware for the Month

David & Trish Russell

* **Communion Days noted in Yellow**