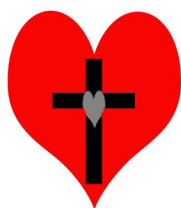




### Pastor's Message

*"God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."* 1 John 4:15-16



February is the month of love. The stores are filled with heart shaped candy boxes, sentimental cards professing forever love. Even little children get in on the act with sweet little Valentine cards they share with their classmates and friends. It is also a day when many people profess their love for one another in marriage. Donna and I were married on Valentine 's Day 42 years ago, and our marriage began as a beautiful flower and has flourished into a tree of blooms spreading branches far and wide.

As great as our love is for our wives, husbands, girlfriends and boyfriends, that love is just a speck compared to the love our God has for us. Since the beginning of creation, when God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God has pursued our love as he has loved us.

When all else failed, he came to us incarnate in Jesus the Christ so he could be with us and live next to us. Then God gave his life through the suffering and crucifixion of his Son on the Cross. Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." And that is what he did, to keep you near him for eternity.

### Ask The Pastor

**Question:** Is Valentine's Day a religious celebration?

**Answer:** It is sometimes called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine,

Saint Valentine of Rome was imprisoned and persecuted for ministering to Christians under the Roman Empire in the third century.

Tradition claims he restored the sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. Legend says he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter as a farewell before his execution and signed it "Your Valentine." The Gelasian Sacramentary, a book of Christian liturgy, recorded the celebration of the Feast of Saint Valentine on February 14.

Saint Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion, and the Lutheran Church. So yes, it is a religious celebration of Love, the kind of love you have for your neighbor, and that God has for you.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor David



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jason Plochberger
1	Bridget Dalton
2	Kevin Pistel
2	Curt Stubinger
2	Elroy Stubinger
3	Morgan Schroeder
3	Mark Strobel
6	Ryan Ferrell
8	Donita Stubinger
10	Abigail Gonzalez
11	Wanda Ferrell
12	Madison Linnenbrink
12	Trevor Collins
14	Virginia Linhardt
14	Abbie Linsenbardt
14	Bob Murphy
15	Julie Nelson
17	Don Buchta
18	Mark Fischer
18	Matthew Kalaf
18	Jerry Koestner
20	Debby Koestner
20	Tyler Soell
27	Mark Kalaf

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
<i>JANUARY 01</i>	<i>49 / 118</i>	<i>\$ 2,342.25</i>
<i>JANUARY 08</i>	<i>89 / 87</i>	<i>\$ 4,140.51</i>
<i>JANUARY 15</i>	<i>75 / 75</i>	<i>\$ 1,854.00</i>
<i>JANUARY 22</i>	<i>73 / 87</i>	<i>\$ 1,308.00</i>
<i>JANUARY 29</i>	<i>59 / 72</i>	<i>\$ 1,932.00</i>

**Additional Income: Epistle : \$75.00**



Let's kick this off in a big way. During the next two Sundays, February 5th and 12th, we will be collecting Soup in cans or packages. Put them in the Narthex and they will be distributed to the Food Pantry to feed the hungry.



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

10	Glen & Donita Stubinger	1973
14	Pastor David & Donna Viles	1981
14	Daniel & Paige Olsen	2020
24	Patty & Scott Duncan	2014
27	Peter & Susan Neenan	1989

## Continued prayers for:

*Virginia Linhardt, Vanessa Pyatt, Donna Viles, Julie Carel, Jahanna Koestner, and the family of Marie Fischer.*



We join our hearts in great sympathy with the family of Marie Fischer who passed away on January 19, 2023.

The family of Reverend Walter Laughlin who passed away on January 7, 2023.

We keep these families in prayer for God's grace to bring them comfort and peace.

**Thank you:** for the cards, messages, memorial contributions and kind words following the death of my sister, Marie Fischer. Our St. Paul's family is the best.

*Gus and Jeannette Fischer*

**Congregational Council Meeting, January 9, 2023**  
**Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe**

† A six o'clock PM regular monthly meeting of the Church Council of St. Paul's Church met on Monday, January 9th. The meeting was called to order by the President Zola Finch. Members present were Stacy Bubach, Laurie Koestner, Jana Thompson, Mitch Plochberger, Kathy Meller, Delores Vlach, and Secretary Frank Pascoe; absent was Vice-President, Dan Tschirgi. Also present for the meeting were Pastor David Viles and Church Treasurer, Kay Pascoe.

† The meeting opened with a prayer by the Pastor. Pastor had previously e-mailed a devotion to the Council members, based on Jeremiah 29:11, in which he gave thanks for the blessings granted to St. Paul's Church. Pastor gave especial thanks to the two devoted Council members whose terms expire this year, Laurie Koestner and Mitchell Plochberger.

† The Council President asked for approval of the previous Council minutes of December 13th, 2022. Motioned by Stacy Bubach, seconded by Jana Thompson, the minutes were approved by all.

† The President requested Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to present the previous month's financial accounting. The Treasurer presented a four-page accounting of recent expenses and account balances. The Church begins 2023 with a balance of \$342,884.40 in all funds. President Finch asked the amount so far remitted to Matt Bridges Construction. President Finch commented on the current positive CD rates. She and the Treasurer will further investigate current CD rates and make an appropriate investment. The Church's financial records will need to be audited prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting of January 22d. Auditors are put into place.

† Pastor Viles monthly report was presented. A total of seven meetings were listed, including the Lohman Lion's Club, Community Building Santa celebration, and the Lohman City Council. Pastor made numerous personal visits to hospital, nursing homes, and funerals. He held new member request meetings, and a number of personal and phone conversations with members and the public. His activities included Christmas caroling with our members, preparation of our Bulletins and the December Epistle. His mileage was 36 miles for pastoral visits for a total of \$23.58 reimbursable expense. This was approved upon a motion by Mitchell Plochberger, seconded by Delores Vlach, and approved by all. Pastor presided over two Sunday communion worship services and two non-eucharistic services during the past month. All were presented on Facebook live.

**The President then called upon the various Council Chairpersons to report on their activities:**

**Evangelism:** Delores Vlach announced that the sign-up sheet for Fellowship Hours for the year has been posted on the narthex bulletin board, although when the fellowship events can begin depends upon the progress of the basement remodeling. The Evangelism Committee would like a more accurate and up to date knowledge of our Sunday visitors and needs a method to record full names and addresses for visitors. Pastor and the Committee will look at ways to accomplish this, whether by Sunday Bulletin announcements or other methods. We would hope our own members can become more outgoing and welcoming to Sunday visitors. We ask all members to greet and chat with visitors on a regular basis.

**Technology:** Dan Tschirgi, unable to be present, e-mailed some comments for the meeting. He reported that the video stream for our last Sunday service was jumpy for the entire service. The audio stream, however, was steady. For the upcoming annual congregational meeting we should leave the audio stream ongoing after the service and that all present speaking at the meeting should speak into a microphone. Dan also reported on a need to update our hearing-impaired devices, as the test proved they do not work properly. The problem will be addressed. There were member comments on the unreliability of our local internet services. It is hoped the new and possibly upcoming availability of

"CoMo Connect" service be an improvement. Problems with Pastor's audio pack were mentioned, leading to a possible new replacement.

**Worship & Music:** Kathy Meller reported on her committee's recent activities. They did not meet in person, but all participated via email. Hymns for February were selected. The Choir will resume in February. It is hoped the bell-choir can resume in February. Communion assistants will be chosen, and Sunday readers selected. An invitation to Pastor Kimberly Knowle-Zeller of Cole Camp will be sent to request a Mother's Day visit to St. Paul's. She has written a book entitled The Beauty of Motherhood. Thanks were expressed to Lester and Kathryn Linsenbardt for keeping the beautiful poinsettias looking great through the holidays. Kathy praised the over 100 who attended the Christmas Eve service on a very frigid night. Kathy and others voiced annoyance with the local and area TV stations who failed to say which St. Paul's Church service was to be cancelled on Christmas Eve. The cancellation was the St. Paul Church in California MO., but the stations failed to identify its location as they scrolled its upcoming cancellation all day and night. Ways to keep the sanctuary warm and hospitable during this winter's Sundays was discussed. During January, the Committee will discuss Lenten services, Ash Wednesday and mid-week Lenten services, and proper settings for those days.

**Parish Education:** Laurie Koestner will be leaving the Council this month and finding someone with the same level of dedication to follow her as chair was discussed. The mitten tree was delivered after Christmas to Pioneer Trail school and Mackenzie Linnenbrink delivered a host of toys to a deserving institution. Volunteers will be needed to lead the Children's Church soon.

**Church Improvement:** Mitchell Plochberger spoke and answered a number of questions regarding the progress of the Church basement renovation. All seems to be going smoothly and it is hoped the remodeling will be done by or around the end of January. Questions about an unexpected new wall were asked, as well as the relocation of certain features such as the dish washing area, etc. The application of the epoxy is continuing. The new cabinets will soon follow once this is done. Mitchell's term as chair is expiring this month but he will continue to be a member of the Committee and to direct its immediate progress.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Stacy Bubach discussed the future disposition of the 2023 beneficiaries of our Special Offerings. Due to Heisinger Bluffs having been sold to a non-Lutheran for-profit entity, Heisinger Bluffs will no longer receive our special beneficiary support. The Council discussed and decided to replace Heisinger Bluffs with Coyote Hill (fostering care services) for the Maundy Thursday offering, and with the HALO organization of Jefferson City for the Good Friday distribution. The distribution at Christmas which has been a four-way distribution will now be a three-way distribution between Oaks Indian Center, River City Habitat for Humanity, and the Samaritan Center of Jefferson City. This was agreed to by all who offered comments.

**Mutual Ministry:** Jana Thompson reported her committee did not meet in December but two of her committee members are going off the Committee in January. She thanked Jacklyn Wood and Roger Pennell for their work on her group. She has hope of finding their replacements very soon.

**Old Business:** The President followed by asking for any references and comments on Old Business. She gave again many thanks to Mitchell Plochberger and Laurie Koestner for their excellent time and contributions to church programs and work. She urged the Council Nominating Committee of Debbie Boyce, Devin Koestner, and Becky Weber to seek out new volunteers for our positions.

**New Business:** The President asked for New Business. Stacy Bubach said that she hoped that when the Basement Remodeling project was completed, we can have a service to which we can invite the various workers for Matt Bridges Construction. President Finch suggested perhaps a special Rededication Service for all, with invitations to the community and beyond. This idea will be discussed soon. There was brief discussion of the need to check the Church's defibrillator and to make sure it is

properly functioning. This will be investigated soon. The issue of a planned Tornado Drill for the Church during a Sunday Service was briefly addressed. This too will be discussed in the near future.

The President called for the adjournment of the meeting if there was no further business to be addressed. Upon a motion offered by Stacy Bubach, seconded by Mitchell Plochberger, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lohman, Mo.  
Annual Congregational Meeting - January 22, 2023  
Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe**



The Annual Congregational Meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Council President Zola Finch. Council members present were President Zola Finch, Vice President Dan Tschirgi, Secretary Frank Pascoe, and Council members Delores Vlach, Kathy Meller, Stacy Bubach, Laurie Koestner, Mitch Plochberger, and Jana Thompson. Also present was Pastor David Viles. This 2023 meeting is held in person for all adult members of the congregation, and for those members watching online via the Church's Facebook page.



President Finch requested Pastor David Viles offer an opening prayer. The attendance of all those in person was registered by sign-up sheets passed amongst the congregation, which recorded fifty-two members present. Two persons watching online requested to be counted. The required quorum was thus satisfied. The President requested approval of the January 16, 2022, minutes of last year's

Congregational Meeting. This was done upon a motion offered by Erika Gerth, seconded by Gary Bunch and approved by all via voice vote.

The President then requested Pastor Viles to comment on his past year's activities. Pastor's Annual Report for 2022 activities is contained on pp. 7 thru 9 of the printed reports handed out to all in attendance, Pastor Viles commented upon his special pleasure as St. Paul's pastor for the previous five years, and on the 23 new members added to the church rolls during 2022; seven new members by baptism and 16 thru affirmation.

President Zola Finch added a number of reflections on her report found on p. 6 of the printed Report. She was especially pleased at the success of the Church's Blessing Box, the expansion of the Church's security measures, and the members who have been so faithful in carrying out those activities. She was highly pleased with the planning and ongoing execution of the basement renovation project, and the addition of our new doors both front and side.

President Finch called the attendees attention to the various Committee reports which could be found on pages 10 thru 18 of the printed report. Mutual Ministry Chairperson Jana Thompson addressed several significant changes and additions to the Church's official Handbook regarding use of the Church facilities; a restatement of the Church's alcohol and tobacco policies; and changes in the evaluation process for our paid staff members. Her Committee's changes are detailed on pages 16-17 of the annual reports.

President Finch then requested the Audit Committee to report on their auditing and review of the financial records maintained by the Church Treasurer, Kay Pascoe. The three members of that Committee were Jason Plochberger, Abbie Linsenbardt, and Jerry Koestner. Jerry Koestner addressed the congregation with a satisfactory reporting of their review. They reviewed income accounts, asset disbursement, bank records, and other official documents regarding the Church's financial position. Jerry commended the Church Treasurer for her very satisfactory work.

President Finch asked Nominating Committee chairperson Debbie Boyce to speak to the assembly regarding their work to find two new members of the Council for 2023/24. Debbie gave an account of their work and reported that only one nomination was forthcoming. Church member Kent Nelson has agreed to put his name forth to fill the Church Improvement Committee position, as Mitch Plochberger's term on the Council is ending. Kent Nelson's acceptance as a nominee was greeted with unanimous consent by the attendees.

The President called upon Stewardship & Finance Chairperson Stacy Bubach to speak regarding budget and finance concerns. Stacy first referred to a previous question about the option "Benevolences" printed on each offering envelope. The envelopes are printed with this option, and for the many who use the envelopes, no change in contributions is needed. A change in our designation of benevolence offerings has, however, taken place. The Heisinger Bluffs retirement facility no longer has a Heisinger Benevolence Fund, since it is now a for-profit entity. The new Church Directory will feature two new recipients of St. Paul's funding. Selected by the Church Council to replace Heisinger Bluffs, are Coyote Hill, which assists with fostering children, and Halo House, which welcomes homeless, pregnant, and parenting teenage girls 16-21. President Finch requested the attendees to approve these changes, and this was done upon a motion offered by Jerry Koestner and approved via unanimous oral consent. President Finch requested the attendee's approval of the outlined 2022 Budget and Proposed 2023 Budget as outlined on page 29 of the Annual Report. This was approved upon a motion by Jerry Koestner, seconded and passed by unanimous verbal consent.

President Finch requested outgoing Church Improvement Chair Mitch Plochberger to discuss progress on renovation of the Church basement. Mitch remarked on the steady progress of the work and the current floor and carpet installation. He also said help would soon be needed with chair and table set up. Mitch said that the remodeling funding is still sound and will see us through to the end of the project which he hopes will be completed by the end of January or soon after the beginning of the next

month. Kathryn Linsenbardt rose to call the assembly's attention to the very excellent work Mitch has done to keep the project on track. She also expressed her hope that Mitch keeps his hand on overseeing the project's completion until the very end; to which Mitch agreed to do. This was received by enthusiastic applause by the members present.

President Finch asked for agreement to the adjournment of this annual Congregational meeting. This was offered as a motion to adjourn by parishioner Bill Gerth, seconded by Jahanna Koestner, and agreed to by all present with unanimous verbal consent at 10:40 am.

After the adjournment of the Annual Congregational meeting, a Church Council meeting was called into session by President Finch. A motion was received to re-elect the current Council officers, President Zola Finch, Vice President Dan Tschirgi, and Secretary Frank Pascoe. This was passed by unanimous verbal consent of the Council members. The Council welcomed new Council member Kent Nelson, who will fulfill the position of Chair of Church Improvement Committee. The members discussed the ongoing difficulty in finding parishioners to volunteer and participate in the Church's Parish Education. It was proposed that the entire congregation be asked for suggestions and input into what is seen as problems and possible solutions to our having an ongoing and successful children and youth educational program. The Council meeting thus adjourned.

### **Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch**

The New Year started out with great weather for the Mobile Food Truck on January 10th at the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot in Russellville. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with this community wide event. We served 164 families with 444 people in those families. Items given out were: apple juice, carrots, cottage cheese, cucumbers, grapes, milk, onions, oranges, potatoes, salads, bags of dog food, jalapeno scone dough, and lunchables. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, and from St. Paul's Lutheran were Rosemary Heidbreder, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Pantry will be February 14th at 1:00 P.M.

### **Freundschaft Gruppe:**

On January 5 at 3 o'clock we met to take down all decorations and store everything away for another year. To our great surprise and delight, Pastor David had already removed the tree decorations, boxed up the tree and put it away. Pastor also removed the outside lights and wreaths. This made our work easier and go by quicker so we could enjoy our customary treats afterward. Unfortunately, Pastor was unable to join in these festivities as he had other duties to attend to.

### **STARS: Jeannette Fischer**

We did not meet in December or January and February does not look good due to the basement remodel. In the past, we gathered on the first Wednesday, but that date will change in 2023. Please note that the meetings will now occur on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month. We look forward to another year of interesting programs, good food, and fellowship. Watch the church bulletin for further information.

### **Bells, Ring a Ding Ding:**

On February 12th we will be privileged to see our children, young, older, and oldest ring the hand bells again for our congregation. We will try to have a rehearsal after worship on February 5th. Let's get many children to come enjoy this wonderful time.

### **Adopt-A-Highway: Pastor David**

St. Paul's Church has taken over the litter clean up of Hwy. D from the intersection of Hwy C to Kim's Mane Street Salon in Lohman. Signs have been posted with our name on each end. A big THANK YOU to Frank Pascoe and Jacklyn Wood for joining Pastor David on Saturday, January 28th to make our area beautiful. If anyone else would like to help out next time, please let Pastor know.

## Margaret Circle — Erika Gerth

Margaret Circle will not meet on Tuesday, February 7th as previously scheduled. We had hoped that the basement/kitchen renovation would be completed by that date; however that is highly unlikely. Therefore, our first meeting of 2023 will take place on Tuesday, March 7th, 6:30 PM in the renovated basement of the church. Donita Stubinger will host and Kay Pascoe will lead us in the study of God's Holy Word. All women of the church, and their friends, are welcome!

## 2023 Synod Assembly

This year's annual synod assembly will be held on June 3, 2023 online via Zoom. The standard business of the assembly will include electing synod council members, adopting a budget, amending our constitution, and voting on resolutions.

We are allowed two members to attend the Synod Assembly with voting rights, typically a man and a woman. If you are interested in joining this ZOOM meeting, please notify Pastor David as soon as possible for registration. If you have never been to a Synod Assembly you may join us in the Basement to watch it with others. For more information about the assembly go to this [LINK for Synod Assembly](#).

## 2023 St. Paul's Directory: Bill and Erika Gerth

Thank you to everyone for reporting your changes for the 2023 directory. We are working diligently to get it created and produced for you as soon as possible.

## Jr. Lutherans and Youth Group: Donita Stubinger

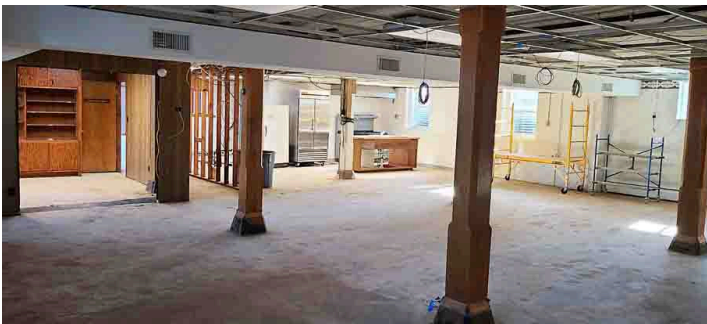
Jr. Lutherans of St. Paul's Lutheran Church will gather for lunch after church on Sunday February 19, 2023. Lunch will be provided, we'll do a craft door hanger for an area Retirement Home, then we will visit with the retirement home residents.

At Christmas time we collected 31 hats, 33 gloves, 72 pair of socks, and 2 scarves. Debbie Boyce delivered them to the Pioneer Trails Elementary School at Apache Flats. Thank you Debbie for all your help.



## Basement & Kitchen Remodel

The remodel has come a long way since it began, and we are hopeful it will be completed by mid February or soon after, so we can enjoy the new kitchen and spaces.





# Calendar of Events and Schedules

**February 7th**, Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee Meeting.

**February 13th**, Monday: Church Council meeting at 6:00 pm in the youth room upstairs.

**February 14th**, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:15 p.m.

**February 15th**, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry will meet at 5:30 pm.

**February 19th**, Sunday: Jr. Lutherans Lunch and Crafts after Worship service.

**February 21st**, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.

**February 23rd**, Thursday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays.

Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

## Usher Schedule

Feb. – 05	Stacy Bubach	Kathy Meller
Feb. – 12	Kent Nelson	Jana Thompson
Feb. – 19	Dan Tschirgi	Delores Vlach
Feb. – 22	Volunteer	Volunteer
Feb. – 26	Frank Pascoe	Stacy Bubach

## Acolyte Schedule

Feb. – 05	Morgan Schroeder
Feb. – 12	Lucas Plochberger
Feb. – 19	Mattson Stoermer
Feb. – 22	Mackenzie Linnenbrink
Feb. – 26	Oliver Stoermer

## Greeters Schedule

Feb. – 05	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott
Feb. – 12	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Feb. – 19	David Russell	Trish Russell
Feb. – 22	Volunteer	Volunteer
Feb. – 26	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle

## Readers Schedule

Feb. – 05	Harry Thompson
Feb. – 12	Delores Vlach
Feb. – 19	Jana Thompson
Feb. – 22	Audrey Bunch
Feb. – 26	Jessica Stoermer

## Song Leader

Feb. – 05	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. – 12	Kathy Meller
Feb. – 19	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. – 22	Kathy Meller
Feb. – 26	Kathy Meller

## Audio / Video Technician

Feb. – 05	Roger Pennell
Feb. – 12	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. – 19	Roger Pennell
Feb. – 22	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. – 26	Dan Tschirgi

## Organist / Keyboard

Feb. – 05	Zola Finch
Feb. – 12	Zola Finch
Feb. – 19	Zola Finch
Feb. – 22	Zola Finch
Feb. – 26	Zola Finch

## Communionware for the Month

David & Trish Russell
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## Communion Assistants

Feb. – 12	Devin Koestner
Feb. – 22	Kathryn Linsenbardt
Feb. – 26	Rosemary Heidbreder

## Altar Flowers for the Month

Audrey Bunch
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\* **Communion Days noted in Yellow**