



Pastor's Message

"The tempter came and said to [Jesus], 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'" Matthew 4:3



The season of Lent has begun and we started it off with Ash Wednesday. Many were marked with the ashen cross in remembrance of our sinfulness, our need to repent, and God's grace of forgiveness. Last Sunday, February 26th, we heard about the temptations Jesus went through at the hands of Satan, the deceiver.

Every day you are tempted through television, movies, radio, and friends. Most of these are not evil, but they are deceivers in tempting you to think you are all that matters, you deserve all the riches the world has to offer, nothing else matters except you alone. This is how

Satan tried to tempt Jesus. He said Jesus didn't need the God the Father, he could make his own food, he could jump off tall buildings without harm, he could have the whole world for himself. It was all about him and he didn't have to do anything for others, just take care of himself! "God is full of grace and love for you. Through his Son Jesus the Christ you are given the grace of forgiveness and eternal life. The world, can only give you death. The temptation of the world is not so tempting after all."

Ask The Pastor

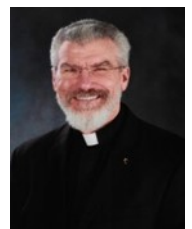
Question: What is the purpose of the Lenten season of the church?

Answer: *"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." Matt. 4:1*

After Jesus' baptism, he entered the wilderness to prepare for the world and the temptations that would seek to drive him from the path God had set before him. He encountered Satan himself who tempted him to take the easy way out.

The season of Lent gives us an opportunity to focus on the ways we are tempted to succumb to the calls of the world to follow it instead of God. One method commonly used is to give up something during these forty days that you enjoy. It might be a favorite food, drink, or something you like to do such as golfing, going to the movies, fishing, or anything that strongly gives you joy. Each time you feel the urge to have or do that item, ignore it for these forty days. In this way you train yourself to ignore the temptations of the world, and of Satan.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



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 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 Dan Tschirgi
- 26 Lauren Stubinger
- 28 Brandon Williams
- 28 Wolfgang Neenan
- 29 Erika Gerth
- 29 Theresa Pistel
- 30 Harry Thompson

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
FEBRUARY 05	89 / 87	\$ 2,958.00
FEBRUARY 12	84 / 82	\$ 2,691.96
FEBRUARY 19	77 / 107	\$ 1,497.00
FEBRUARY 26	77 / 80	\$ 1,313.00

Additional Income:

Ash Wednesday: \$386.00 (Oaks Indian Center)

Epistle : \$8.00

Bell Music: \$150.00

LENTEN MID-WEEK SERVICES: Join us for Lent services, and enjoy the Amazing Grace series and singing the Holden Evening Prayer. Offerings will support the ELCA Hunger Appeal. ***Please consider an extra offering even if you do not attend the services.***



This was a WIN just like the Chief's 2nd Super bowl Championship. Big Thanks you to everyone who brought in soup and other items for the Russellville Food Pantry. Thank you Audrey and Gary Bunch for boxing up all the food. Dan Tschirgi for loading it in his truck and transported it to the Tuesday food pantry event. Also thanks to Debbie Boyce and Audrey Bunch for this great suggestion.



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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

Continued prayers for:

Bob Collins, Jenetia Gibler, Virginia Linhardt, Vanessa Pyatt, Donna Viles, and Julie Carel.

Congratulations to Chase and Riley Pistel for the birth of their son, Waylon. He was born on January 30, 2023



We join our hearts in sympathy with the family of Linda Kay Wyss (sister-in-law of Bill and Sharon Wyss). She passed away on February 24, 2023. We keep this family in prayer for God's grace to bring them comfort and peace.

Congregational Council Meeting, February 13, 2023
Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe

† A six o'clock PM regular meeting of the Church Council met on Monday, Feb. 13th. The meeting was called to order by Council President Zola Finch. Council members present were Stacy Bubach, Kathy Meller, Delores Vlach, Kent Nelson and Frank Pascoe. Absent were Dan Tschirgi and Jana Thompson. Also present were Church Treasurer, Kay Pascoe and the very Reverend Pastor David Viles.

† The meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Viles. From his previously e-mailed devotion, Pastor Viles cited 1 Peter 2:21, which reminded the Council members that each had chosen to take up a personal call to serve our Church congregation, leaving our comfort zone to do the work of the Church.

† The President asked for approval of the previous Council minutes of Jan. 9th. This was done upon a motion by Stacy Bubach, seconded by Kathy Meller, and agreed to by all.

† The President called on Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to present a report on the previous month's financial accounting. A four-page statement of the Church's financial position was distributed to all. It showed a year-to-date balance of \$313,466.66 in all accounts. The monthly expense totals thru end of January were \$10,949.97. January income totals were \$12,035.14. The basement remodeling project had an ending balance of \$15,092.22. After a number of questions and discussion, a motion to purchase another 9-month CD from the Farmer's Bank of Lohman for \$20,000 was made by Stacy Bubach, seconded by Kent Nelson, and agreed to by all.

† Pastor Viles then presented his report of monthly activities. He reported a total of 84 miles of auto travel. His travel total reimbursement was \$55.02, which was agreed to upon a motion by Frank Pascoe, seconded by Delores Vlach, and agreed to by all. His report detailed six meetings, among them Lohman City Council, Lohman Lions Club, Mutual Ministry Committee, and area Ministerial Alliance. His personal pastoral visits included those for spiritual comfort and solace, new membership discussion, and funeral arrangements. His activities included two funerals, preparing Sunday Bulletins, website updating, and Epistle creation and its distribution. There were two Communion Sundays, and three non-communion services, and two funerals conducted.

Pastor reported that the annual Easter Sunday sunrise service will be held at Trinity Church in Russellville. The 2024 service will be here at St. Paul's.

President Finch requested Council Chairpersons to report on their January activities:

Evangelism: Delores Vlach said there are still open monthly Fellowship Coffee hours. The four upcoming months needing sponsors are May, June, August and November. We continue waiting for the basement remodeling project to finalize before planning our long-awaited new member reception. This might be done in May if someone would sign-up. 2023 may be a year in which we do not have our Annual Pancake Breakfast, as this activity depends very much on the kitchen remodeling, and with the breakfast's advertising and pre-planning. The pancake breakfast is just a "wait and see" occasion since the cabinets will need to be in place, the kitchen fully functional, etc.

{NOTE: The Pancake Breakfast is CANCELLED FOR 2023}

Technology: Chairperson Dan Tschirgi was absent from the meeting, attending orchestra rehearsal. There was comment that the online service display was working, only a minor glitch from time-to-time. It was noted that the children's Bell Choir's online presentation was well received.

Worship & Music: Kathy Meller reported on her Committee's Feb. 7th meeting. There was no January meeting. The congregation would like more Christmas carols during the season. This will be planned for next Christmas. The type of wine served at the Eucharist was discussed. The Mogen David type seemed preferred; however, Les Bourgeois "Riverboat Red" was also touted. Setting 10 will be used during Lent. Communion assistants have been chosen for the year. The Choir and Bell Choir will continue occasional performances. Ash Wednesday service will have communion and imposition of

ashes. Mid-week Lenten services will begin March 1st at 6:30 in the sanctuary. This year's theme will honor the 250th anniversary of the hymn "Amazing Grace". Mother's Day [May 14th] will have a special guest, Pastor Kimberly Knowle-Zeller, who will conduct that service.

Parish Education: Since this position on the Council remains unfilled, it was briefly discussed how to present to the Church community our need to have the congregation's input and suggestions on the future of Sunday School and all its potential activities. Will not someone within our Congregation step-up to fill this void? Will we have to hire some qualified person from outside the Church to take on this critical position? President Finch will begin working on a series of questions for the congregation's consideration.

Church Improvement: Chair Kent Nelson reported that the completion date of the basement remodeling project remains clouded. It is now doubtful that it will be completed by the end of February. Kent Nelson reported that prior to this meeting's beginning he, President Finch, Mitch Plochberger, Pastor Viles had a walk-thru with the remodeling contractor Matt Bridges. They attempted to point out various flaws, repair needs, and observations to Mr. Bridges. The group expressed a number of problems, dissatisfactions, and obvious corrections needed prior to completion of the project. A number of Council members made observations of repairs still needed before the project can be called to completion.

Stewardship & Finance: Chairperson Stacy Bubach had no January report.

Mutual Ministry: Chairperson Jana Thompson, unable to attend, had submitted an e-mailed report to all members. She reported on her committee's January 18th meeting. At that meeting, her committee discussed the greeting of visitors, use of church microphones, financial status of the church, distribution of keys, and the critical need for a leader in Parish Education. The consideration of hiring someone part-time to direct this need was discussed. Some of her committee members thought this might be a solution, others had reservations. Her committee noted that only 28 completed "Time & Talent" sheets were returned. Her committee now has two new members, Becky Weber and Devin Koestner.

Old Business: Pastor Viles reported on the ongoing misuse of the Blessing Box by a few who come up to the Church and removed all the contents, but especially all the toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. The Council briefly discussed what might be done to stop this improper ill-use. Stacy Bubach suggested in the near future we put only food items in the box. Those who are hungry will, it is hoped, be fed, and those who only take the other contents will cease this activity. This suggestion was approved by those who expressed an opinion.

New Business: Hearing none, the President called the meeting to adjournment. The meeting ended upon recitation of the OUR FATHER.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

Mobile Food Truck came to Russellville at the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot on February 14th a cool rainy day. The wind gusts and heavy rain wasn't the weather we had hoped for to serve 137 families with 372 people in those families. St. Paul's Congregation donated several boxes of soup, and St. Paul's WELCA donated 100 assorted boxes of cereal that was given out at the mobile. Items from the truck were produce boxes: lettuce, pineapple, green peppers, celery, chives, potatoes, tomatoes, cream cheese, boxes of hot cocoa, cheese puffs, sour cream, frozen brussel sprouts with carrots, and Marie Calendar meals. Thanks to all the volunteers that came out to help. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's was Dan Tschirgi, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Pantry will be March 14th at 1:00 P.M.

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

Due to basement remodeling we were not able to meet in February, but we have high hopes for March. In past years we always set up equipment and supplies for quilt making days at our February meeting but construction did not allow that this year. Hopefully we will be able to meet in March and proceed with quilt projects soon after. Watch the Sunday bulletins for further announcements.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

We have not been able to enjoy STARS luncheons and programs for several months, but things are looking up. The basement and kitchen remodeling project will soon be completed and we can resume our meetings. We have numerous interesting programs scheduled and, of course, our food is the best. Please note that our meeting schedule has changed this year and we will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Margaret Circle — Erika Gerth

Members of Margaret Circle and anyone interested in Bible study, fellowship and supporting worthy organizations with financial assistance: You are invited to attend the Circle's upcoming meeting on Tuesday evening, March 7, 2023. in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM. Donita Stubinger will host and Kay Pascoe will lead us in the study of God's holy word. Please RSVP to Erika Gerth at 573-635-6681 or erikagerth329@gmail.com. with questions and/or to let us know you will attend.

Bells, Ring a Ding Ding:

On March 12th we will hear our children, young, older, and oldest ring the hand bells again for our congregation. We will try to have a rehearsal after worship on March 5th. Practice will be short and it is so much fun. Let's get many children to come enjoy this wonderful time. Hope to see you then.



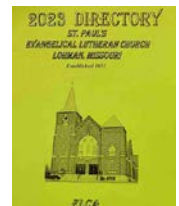
2023 Synod Assembly

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.

St. Paul's may have two members 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 Bill and Erika for the 2023 directory. It is fantastic and well needed resource for everyone at St. Paul's. This is also a color that is easy to find on a messy desk! Thank you for "Living God's Will, Sharing Christ's Love, and Embracing The Spirit."



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 March 26, 2023.

Jr. Lutherans and Youth Group: Donita Stubinger

POSTPONED: Jr. Lutherans of St. Paul's Lutheran Church were unable to gather for lunch and door hanger crafts to take to retirement home residents in February. This event will be rescheduled for a later date when the basement has been completed.

Basement & Kitchen Remodel: continues and we hope it will be finished sometime this month of March. Glen Stubinger, with help from his wonderful family, has been installing cabinets. They are looking amazing, and we can begin to see what the kitchen will look like. It will be big and beautiful. Thank you all for your patience.



CONGRATULATIONS LEXIE PLOCHBERGER: Sports Locker Magazine. Article by Jay Gill, photography by Kathryn Gill.



Lexie, a junior at Russellville High School, competes in archery and volleyball. She finished this season with 497 assists and the best record Russellville volleyball has ever had, pulling off a lot of upset victories along the way. During her sophomore and junior year, she was voted team captain and received 1st Team All-District and 1st Team All-Conference. When it comes to education, Lexie is in the top 20% of her class and has a 3.8 GPA.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLIE MILLER, who just finished his Senior year of basketball with OVER 1,500 career points for the Russellville Indians. That is a great accomplishment. WELL DONE!

Calendar of Events and Schedules

- March 1st**, Wednesday: Lent service at 6:30 p.m.
March 7th, Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the youth room upstairs.
March 7th, Tuesday: Margaret Circle Meeting in Church basement at 6:30 p.m.
March 8th, Wednesday: Lent service at 6:30 p.m.
March 12th, Sunday: Daylight Savings Time, set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night.
March 13th, Monday: Church Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the youth room upstairs.
March 14th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:15 p.m.
March 15th, Wednesday: Lent service at 6:30 p.m.
March 21st, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.
March 22nd, Wednesday: Lent service at 6:30 p.m.
March 24th, Friday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
March 26th, Sunday: Easter Lily orders are due no later than today.
March 29th, Wednesday: Lent service at 6:30 p.m. (Last service)

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

Usher Schedule

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

Acolyte Schedule

Mar. – 05	Madeline Stubinger
Mar. – 12	Morgan Schroeder
Mar. – 19	Lucas Plochberger
Mar. – 26	Mattson Stoermer

Greeters Schedule

Mar. – 05	Devin Koestner	Jerry Koestner
Mar. – 12	Richard Heidbreider	Rosemary Heidbreider
Mar. – 19	Jacklyn Wood	Kent Nelson
Mar. – 26	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott

Readers Schedule

Mar. – 05	Marlene Carlson
Mar. – 12	Bill Gerth
Mar. – 19	Erika Gerth
Mar. – 26	Ashley Heidbreider

Song Leader

Mar. – 05	Dan Tschirgi
Mar. – 12	Kathy Meller
Mar. – 19	Kathy Meller
Mar. – 26	Dan Tschirgi

Audio / Video Technician

Mar. – 05	Roger Pennell
Mar. – 12	Dan Tschirgi
Mar. – 19	Dan Tschirgi
Mar. – 26	Roger Pennell

Organist / Keyboard

Mar. – 05	Zola Finch
Mar. – 12	Zola Finch
Mar. – 19	Zola Finch
Mar. – 26	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Jason & Jacklyn Wood

Communion Assistants

Mar. – 12	Jahanna Koestner
Mar. – 26	Laurie / Jerry Koestner

Altar Flowers for the Month

Rosemary Heidbreider

Security

Mar. – 05	Jerry Koestner
Mar. – 12	Jerry Koestner
Mar. – 19	Devin Koestner
Mar. – 26	Jason Wood

* Communion Days noted in Yellow