



Pastor's Message

Jesus said to [Martha], 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' John 11:40



The once beautiful old home place is falling in upon itself. The roof is sagging along with the upper porch where people once sat watching buggies go down the dirt road pulled by horses and friends waving. But year after year, when Spring comes the flowers bloom in abundance showing life at the home place continues to live on in its glory. Our bodies are the home place that falls into sagging disrepair. But Jesus gives us a life that continues on to the glory of God, long after the old home place is gone. Do you believe?

That is the question Jesus asked Martha the day he raised her brother Lazarus from the tomb. I believe!

Ask The Pastor

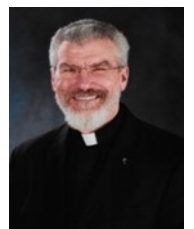
Question: What was the significance of the temple curtain being torn in two when Jesus died?

Answer: *"Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."* Matthew 27:50-51a

The Temple in Jerusalem was divided in two areas by a measuring perhaps 60 feet tall and 4 inches thick. The front area was for Priests and people to gather and burn daily sacrifices for their sins. The back hidden area was where God dwelt in the Holy of Holies. Only once a year, the high priest was allowed to go beyond the curtain to enter God's presence to make atonement for the sins of all people. The curtain signified that mortal man was separated from God by sin. Isaiah said, "your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you." The curtain was a constant reminder that sin makes humanity unfit for the presence of God. However, at the time of Jesus death, the curtain was torn in half. The blood of Jesus crucifixion was the final sacrifice to atone for all humanity's sins. Jesus removed the barrier between humankind and the presence of God. Through Jesus' work on the cross we now live with God's presence surrounding us in the Holy Spirit. We now gather at the Lord's Table, eating and drinking in the real presence of Jesus the Christ. We are free to be with God and God with us.

Amen.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Donald Weber
- 1 Wilfred Plochberger
- 2 Bill Stubinger
- 4 Patricia Russell
- 4 Julie Walters
- 8 Kara Richart
- 11 Laura Koestner
- 11 Mattson Stoermer
- 12 Hope Stubinger
- 13 Devin Koestner
- 13 Paul Schiller
- 15 Ellen Strobel
- 16 Landin Thompson
- 16 Todd Walters
- 17 Michelle Collins
- 17 Mitchell Plochberger
- 19 Noah Stubinger
- 20 Leon Pistel
- 22 Diane Kalaf
- 22 Christie Murphy
- 23 Chris Russell
- 26 Angie Bracher
- 27 Garrett Hager
- 29 Kay Pascoe

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
MARCH 05	82 / 68	\$ 4,415.00
MARCH 12	79 / 77	\$ 2,907.96
MARCH 19	77 / 97	\$ 1,313.00
MARCH 26	80 / 75	\$ 1,950.00

Additional Income:

Epistle : \$28.00
Bell Music: \$125.00 for a total of \$300.00
Lent Mid-Week: \$1,136.00 (ELCA World Hunger)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Join us for Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023 for a communion service. Good Friday, April 7, 2023 for Pastor's special service using the last seven words of Jesus on the cross.

Special thanks to all who donated plastic caps and lids for my elementary school in Columbia to create a bench from recycled plastic. This is a wonderful project for you to support. God bless you!

~ Oliver Stoermer ~



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Shawn & Sherrie Williams 1999
- 18 Matt & Wendy Barker 2015
- 18 Jerry & Laurie Koestner 1992
- 21 Luke & Miranda England 2018 **5 Years**
- 23 Charles & Wanda Ferrell 1982
- 23 Michael & Dana Moeller 1994
- 25 Doug & Julie Carel 1987
- 28 Melvin & Joan Stubinger 1968 **55 Years**



Continued prayers for:

Lester Linsenbardt, Ladine Heidbreder, Bob Collins, Jenetia Gibler, Donna Viles, and Julie Carel.



We join our hearts in sympathy with the family of Vera Stubinger (wife of Elroy Stubinger). She passed away on March 24, 2023. We keep this family in prayer for God's grace to bring them comfort and peace.

Congregational Council Meeting, March 13, 2023

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

† The meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Viles giving thanks for the day and asking God's wisdom to guide us by the Holy Spirit in our deliberations.

† The President asked for approval of the previous Council minutes of Feb. 13th. This was done upon a motion by Stacy Bubach, seconded by Jana Thompson, and agreed to by all.

† The President called our attention to the printed four page Treasury report and summary provided by Treasurer, Kay Pascoe. The remaining Hugo and Gertrude Strobel Trust Fund gift in the amount of \$33,784.42 was received by the church in February. With bank interest returns increasing, \$20,000.00 was invested in a new CD. Discussion then revolved around the remaining \$13,784.42 and other monies that could be invested at a higher rate. The consensus reached was to invest in another CD. A motion was made by Kathy Meller to combine the remaining Strobel fund with the current CD of 21007.80 which is drawing very little interest, and the balance from the General Fund to purchase a \$60,000.00 CD at the higher rate available. The motion was seconded by Stacy Bubach and passed by voice vote. The Treasurer's report shows the finances of the church are healthy. President Finch called for approval of the Treasurer's report with Dan Tschirgi making a motion to approve and Kent Nelson was the second. All members approved via voice vote.

† President Finch called for Pastor Viles to present his report of monthly activities. He reported a total of 34 miles of auto travel with the balance of his miles donated. His travel total reimbursement was \$22.27, which was agreed to upon a motion by Delores Vlach, seconded by Kathy Meller, and agreed to by all. His report detailed seven 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, wedding discussion with Abby Bubach and Dawson Rhodes, and funeral visit for Tommy Thompson. His activities included one funeral visit, Purchase of Lenten service series and adaptation to the Holden Evening Prayer, preparing Sunday Bulletins, website updating, and Epistle creation and its distribution. There were two Communion Sundays, and two non-communion Sunday services, and one communion Ash Wednesday service. 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.

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

Evangelism: Delores Vlach reported her committee decided to cancel the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast due to unknown availability of the basement kitchen and lack of time to advertise. We have two new members this year who are waiting for introductions and fellowship in the basement. Again, we are waiting for finalization of the basement and kitchen to plan a date for that event. Due to the lack of a Parish Ed person, Evangelism and Worship & Music committees will prepare for the Easter Egg hunt after worship service on Easter Sunday. Donations of candy are welcome and we will include a small note about Family Day in each egg.

Technology: Chairperson Dan Tschirgi reported the hearing assist devices are now working for anyone who may need one. A statement advertising the devices will be placed in future bulletins.

Worship & Music: Kathy Meller reported the mid-week Lenten services are going well. Those attending enjoy having the service in the Sanctuary instead of downstairs. The committee received \$275.00 toward purchase of more Bell Choir songs for the kids. Kathy ordered \$300.00 worth of songs. Hymns for April were selected and we will begin using more adult choir songs from the Borning Cry Vol. 2 song books. Additional services will be Maundy Thursday on April 6th, Good Friday on April 7th

with both services beginning at 6:30 p.m. Hot Cross buns are planned after Good Friday service. This year's community Sunrise Easter service will be held at Trinity Lutheran church in Russellville at 6:30 a.m. St. Paul's will bring a small choir to sing a hymn. Next year St. Paul's will host the Sunrise service. Mother's Day [May 14th] will have a special guest, Pastor Kimberly Knowle-Zeller, who will conduct that service.

Parish Education: 40 surveys were sent out and 12 anonymous responses were received. 6 respondent had children and want them to attend. 1 person was willing to teach or help. For those responding and others who would like to attend we will have a meeting after church on April 16, 2023.

Church Improvement: Chair Kent Nelson reported March 25, 2023 will be our Church work day at 8:00 am. If weather is inclement, we will postpone until April 1, 2023. A conversation was held on existing problems with the basement. We discussed the possibility of another contractor doing work that Matt is unable to finish to the higher standards requested. We need to discover what is left on future invoices from Matt to determine the amount of funds left to use for other work.

Stewardship & Finance: Chairperson Stacy Bubach asked about the noisy offering on Sundays. In order to add Stacy Bubach's name to the checking account previous names of Larry Courter, who has died and David Finch who no longer attends, must be removed from the bank accounts. Stacy Bubach made the motion, seconded by Dan Tschirgi and passed via voice vote. Stacy reported on a new suicide hotline number of 988 and suggested it be promoted.

Mutual Ministry: Chairperson Jana Thompson reported on her committee discussed the Parish Ed vacancy. She also mentioned the new staff evaluation system of ongoing gathering of information as it becomes available and recording it. These comments will be shared with the staff person although names are kept confidential regardless if the comment is positive or negative. She reported two comments concerning Pastor David's detailed work on the Epistle and Kathryn Linsenbardt's excellent work keeping the church clean.

Old Business: Pastor Viles reported on the ongoing misuse of the Blessing Box by two or three who come up to the Church and remove all the contents, but especially all the toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. We will continue to monitor the Blessing Box and decide the future of the box.

New Business: A discussion was held concerning future use of the Parsonage. It is still filled with items from the basement. Therefore, nothing can be done at this time. We will review this again when the Parsonage is available for use.

Jana Thompson is hosting a wedding shower for a niece on April 1st. Per new Church policy, Jana is requesting permission to have some alcohol in some punch during the event. The Council along with the Pastor granted permission for this one event.

The President then called for adjournment of the Session, which was agreed to, and the meeting concluded with all present reciting the Our Father at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. David Viles on behalf of the renowned and prominently esteemed Secretary Frank Pascoe.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The March 14th Mobile Food Pantry Truck came on a sunny afternoon to Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot in Russellville. We served 137 families with 372 people in those families. Items given out were produce boxes (carrots, cinnamon rolls, grapes, milk, onions, pears, potatoes, and tomatoes) assorted cereal bags, apple juice, polish sausage, and miscellaneous frozen dinners, vegetables and meats. Thanks to all the volunteers that help with the community event for our area and surrounding communities. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidebreder, Dan Tschirgi, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Pantry will be April 11th at 1:00 P.M.

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

Our gruppe will meet on Monday, April 10 at 5:30. This will be our last meeting for the season as we will be in recess until September, our usual schedule. There will be numerous chores as we are in the process of reclaiming our kitchen following renovation. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Jeannette at 782-4594 by 9 PM, Sunday, April 9.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

Finally! At last! We can resume our STARS luncheons and programs on April 19 as kitchen renovations are almost complete. We are happy to have local authors Rich and Gina Prosch present their latest books and share with us their inspirations and backgrounds for their stories. Rich's book covers western Nebraska history and Gina has a children's book. Plan to attend and bring a dish to share. The main course will be provided. Note that our meeting date has changed to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 by Monday, April 17.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

On Tuesday evening, March 7, 2023, members of Margaret Circle were greeted by hostess Donita Stubinger in the beautifully renovated basement of St. Paul's for the circle's first meeting of 2023. Kay Pascoe led us in a stimulating Bible study focused on "The Kingdom of God". Passages of scripture in which Jesus makes reference to the kingdom of God were presented and discussed. Kay also shared a chart which offers "40 Ways to Love God and Neighbor" with simple suggestions such as "keep your word", "reserve judgment", "think gracious thoughts" and "choose your words wisely". Can you see how those actions are related to the Kingdom of God here on earth? If you are interested in a copy of "40 Ways to Love God and Neighbor", speak to Kay or Erika and we will provide you with one.

Shortly after Christmas, Debbie Boyce, to the delight of the school's staff, delivered numerous hats, mittens, socks, etc. to Pioneer Trails Elementary School. Donita reported that Russellville Elementary School has a number of children receiving week-end buddy packs. Margaret Circle will continue to add something special to each one on a monthly basis. Margaret Circle has supported the work of Mobility Worldwide for several years and you may remember when a representative from the agency, based in Columbia, joined our congregation for Fellowship and brought a mobility cart for us to see. Mobility Worldwide is on course to build 2,600 carts in 2023! Thanks to Margaret Circle's generosity, a check in the amount of \$350.00, the cost of one cart, has been sent to the agency.

Following the business meeting, we enjoyed red velvet cake and coffee, provided by our hostess Donita. We look forward to our **next meeting which will be held at the church on Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30 PM.** Erika Gerth will host, and Ruth Stubinger will lead the Bible study. All women of the church and their friends are invited!

WELCA Spring Cluster Meeting: Marie Scheperle

All Women of the ELCA are invited to attend the annual Mid-Mo Spring Cluster meeting on Saturday, April 29, 2023 beginning at 9:00 A.M. with registration and refreshments. The meeting will be held at Kent Memorial Lutheran Church, Sunrise Beach. Bible Study will be given by Pastor Ed Foster from Kent Memorial. Afternoon program will be presented by Principal Christina Moulder of Hurricane Deck Elementary School in Sunrise Beach on "The Leader in Me", a national program in building leadership and life skills in students laying a foundation for sustained academic achievement. She will also address the support Hurricane Deck receives from the community including Kent Memorial. The in-kind gifts will be given to Hurricane Deck Elementary School. List follows: Black Expo dry erase markers, Kleenex, disinfecting wipes, paper towels, Ziploc bags (sandwich & gallon). In addition to the registration fee of \$5.00, there will also be a raffle for the Education Scholarship Fund. All checks should be made out to Kent Memorial Women of the ELCA. Please let Marie Scheperle know by April 22, if you plan to attend so we can let Kent Memorial know how many will be attending from St. Paul's. We will carpool rides from St. Paul's Church parking lot.

Quilts, quilts, quilts: Jeannette Fischer

There were about 12 people in attendance two Wednesdays in March to construct, tack and hem quilts for Lutheran World Relief and other missions. We completed about 24 quilts and were able to reach this number thanks to those who pieced tops ahead of time and those who took quilts home to hem. We had the strength to do all this work thanks to Donita who prepared lunch for us both days. The quilts will soon be displayed for all to enjoy. Thanks to all who helped with this project.



Jr. Lutherans and Youth Group: Donita Stubinger

Jr. Lutherans of St. Paul's Lutheran Church will meet in the church basement at 9:30 am on Saturday, April 8th to dye Easter Eggs. A continental breakfast will be provided. Every child will take home a dozen colored eggs, which will be furnished. Calls will be made to remind them!

The family of Virginia Linhardt would like to sincerely thank everyone who called, visited, sent cards, brought food, and offered prayers during Virginia's illness. Virginia loved her church family very much and appreciated the love and support she was shown. Thank you and blessings to each one of you.



Basement & Kitchen Remodel: Contractor Matt Bridges has completed the remodel work in the basement and kitchen except for connecting the drains on the north wall for the three sinks, garbage disposal, and added dishwasher. Mr. Bridges will return to do this last part when the counter top is in place with the fixtures installed. We have already started using the basement for activities during the latter stage of completion and hope to be fully engaged very soon.



Fellowship Coffee Hour: Be sure to visit the basement after worship service on Sunday, April 2nd for good food and conversation with your Church family. Delicious delicacies will be provided by Harry & Jana Thompson and Jerry & Laurie Koestner families.

New Special Offering Beneficiaries: After Heisinger was sold to a for-profit company the beneficiary fund was dissolved. We have chosen two new beneficiaries to replace Heisinger.

Maundy Thursday - Coyote Hill Foster Care Services: "exists to give children in foster care a safe place to be a child. We strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus for children in foster care in our communities."

Good Friday – Halo House: "For homeless children in Jefferson City, HALO represents far more than food and shelter. It represents the day their entire life changed for pregnant, parenting, and non-parenting girls ages 16-21, and their children, who are in homeless or high-risk situations."

Calendar of Events and Schedules

- April 1st**, Saturday: Church grounds work day 8:00 am until finished.
- April 1st**, Saturday: Jana Thompson reserved basement for wedding shower 2:00pm
- April 4th**, Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the youth room upstairs.
- April 4th**, Tuesday: Election Day
- April 6th**, Thursday: Maundy Thursday service with communion will begin at 6:30 p.m.
- April 7th**, Friday: Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m.
- April 9th**, Sunday: Easter Egg Hunt after worship service provided by Evangelism and Worship & Music.
- April 10th**, Monday: Freundschaft Gruppe will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the basement.
- April 10th**, Monday: Church Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the youth room upstairs.
- April 11th**, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:15 p.m.
- April 18th**, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- April 19th**, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 am and a presentation by Rich & Gina Prosch.
- April 19th**, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting upstairs 6:30 p.m.
- April 25th**, Tuesday: Margaret Circle will meet in the Church Basement at 6:30 PM.
- April 26th**, Wednesday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
- April 29th**, Saturday: Cemetery work day begins at 8:00 am. Our Cemetery is beautiful, through your help.
- April 29th**, Saturday: WELCA Spring Cluster meeting at Sunrise Beach beginning at 9:00 am.

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

Usher Schedule

Apr. - 02	Kent Nelson	Jana Thompson
Apr. - 09	Dan Tschirgi	Delores Vlach
Apr. - 16	Frank Pascoe	Stacy Bubach
Apr. - 23	Kathy Meller	Kent Nelson
Apr. - 30	TBA	TBA

Acolyte Schedule

Apr. - 02	Mackenzie Linnenbrink
Apr. - 09	Madeline Stubinger
Apr. - 16	Morgan Schroeder
Apr. - 23	Lucas Plochberger
Apr. - 30	Mattson Stoermer

Greeters Schedule

Apr. - 02	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Apr. - 09	David Russell	Trish Russell
Apr. - 16	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle
Apr. - 23	Devin Koestner	Jerry Koestner
Apr. - 30	TBA	TBA

Readers Schedule

Apr. - 02	Harry Thompson
Apr. - 09	Jana Thompson
Apr. - 16	Marie Scheperle
Apr. - 23	Donald Weber
Apr. - 30	Audrey Bunch

Song Leader

Apr. - 02	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 09	Kathy Meller
Apr. - 16	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 23	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 30	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

Apr. - 02	Roger Pennell
Apr. - 09	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 16	Roger Pennell
Apr. - 23	Roger Pennell
Apr. - 30	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

Apr. - 02	Zola Finch
Apr. - 09	Zola Finch
Apr. - 16	Zola Finch
Apr. - 23	Zola Finch
Apr. - 30	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Audrey Bunch & Rosemary Heidbreder

Communion Assistants

Apr. - 09	Audrey B. & Rosemary H.
Apr. - 23	Jessica Stoermer

Altar Flowers for the Month

Kathryn Linsenbardt

Security

Apr. - 02	Devin Koestner
Apr. - 09	Gary Elliott
Apr. - 16	Kent Nelson
Apr. - 23	Harry Thompson
Apr. - 30	Melvin Stubinger

* Communion Days noted in **Yellow**