

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 67 No. 5

May - 2023

Pastor's Message

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36



The Easter season continues for another 27 days until Pentecost Sunday.

This Dogwood tree, planted next to our church by Rhonda Rose is beautiful and explodes in white blossoms each spring. Legend holds that the tree was once very large, like a Great Oak tree, and because its wood was strong and sturdy, it provided building material for a variety of purposes. According to the story, it was the Dogwood tree that provided the wood used to build the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Because of its role in the crucifixion, the tree was inconsolable. Our merciful God blessed the tree to be forever small, so that it would never grow large enough again for its wood to be used as a cross for a crucifixion.

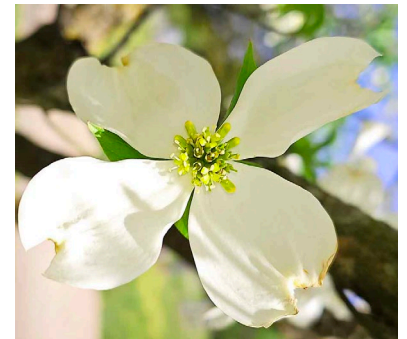
Its branches would be narrow and crooked. At the

same time, however, the tree would produce beautiful flowers each spring, just in time for Easter. To remember God's promise to the tree, he gave it a few traits so that whoever looks upon it will never forget. The petals of the dogwood form the shape of a cross with four petals. The middle of the Dogwood flower has a tight grouping of resembling a "crown of thorns." And the tips of each of the petals are indented, as if they bear a nail dent. There are even colors in the petals that bring to mind the drops of blood that spilled during the crucifixion.

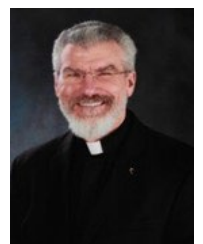
The story of this legend is an example of God's love for each of us regardless of what we have done in our lives. There is nothing we have done that we cannot be forgiven for by God's abundant grace and love. He sent his Son, Jesus the Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins and to give us eternal life by his work on the cross and resurrection from the tomb. His mercy is never ending.

I pray for each of us, that in our daily lives we will remember God's mercy and his forgiveness for the things we have done. I pray we will follow God's example to have mercy and forgiveness of others in the same way we have received them from our Lord.

Amen



Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Scott Grunden
- 3 Kathryn Linsenbardt
- 4 Shane Russell
- 7 Nancy Thompson
- 9 Zola Finch
- 10 Oliver Stoermer
- 12 Roger Thompson
- 14 Mark Schroeder
- 15 Kim Tschirgi
- 18 DaisyRae Linhardt
- 19 Dave Boyce
- 19 Ruthann Woehrer
- 20 Macie Moeller
- 21 Lottie Tierney
- 23 Dawn James
- 23 Ruth Strobel
- 25 Anthony James
- 25 Marvin Bubach
- 25 Kendall Stubinger
- 28 Bill Gerth
- 30 Doug Carel
- 30 Dana Moeller
- 31 Ryan Heidbreder

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
APRIL 02	80 / 134	\$ 4,394.00
APRIL 09	160 / 166	\$ 8,077.96
APRIL 16	70 / 107	\$ 2,207.00
APRIL 23	81 / 96	\$ 1,750.00
APRIL 30	To be reported next month	

Additional Income:

Lent Mid-Week: \$1,291.00 (ELCA World Hunger)

Maundy Thursday: \$ 460.72 (Coyote Hill Foster)

Good Friday: \$ 337.25 (HALO House)

On-Line Video Fund: \$ 1,200.00 (Special thanks to Doug and Julie Carel for this donation in honor of their 36th wedding anniversary. This fund keeps our dedicated internet going for broadcasting our worship services.)

Thank you for the memorial offerings for Les Linsenbardt.

To date we have received:

St. Paul's Carpet Fund: \$2,130.00

St. Paul's Cemetery: \$1,115.00

Missouri Honor Flight: \$ 345.00



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Kent & Julie Nelson 1993 **30 Years**
- 6 Denny & Lori Linhardt 2000
- 10 Kris & Laura Tuttle 2015
- 15 Gus & Jeannette Fischer 1960
- 16 Scott & Kelly Grunden 1992
- 19 Chris & Elizabeth Russell 2001
- 22 Marshall & Julie Griffin 2009
- 23 Conor & Angela Tierney 2015
- 23 Dan & Kim Tschirgi 1987
- 23 Chase & Riley Pistel 2020
- 25 Colin & Ruthann Woehrer 1968 **55 Years**
- 31 Bill & Erika Gerth 1960

Continued prayers for:

Ladine Heidbreder, Bob Collins, Jenetia Gibler, Donna Viles, Ruth Strobel, and Julie Carel.

Congratulations to the Olsen family:

Knox Daniel Olsen was born to Paige and Daniel Olsen on April 15, 2023. His big sister Karahlyne is so in love with her little brother Knox.



We join our hearts in sympathy with the family of Lester Linsenbardt. He passed away on April 9, 2023. We keep this family in prayer for God's grace to bring them comfort and peace.

Congregational Council Meeting, April 10, 2023

† A six o'clock pm regular meeting of the Church Council met on Monday, April 10th. The meeting was called to order by its President Zola Finch. Members present were Stacy Bubach, Jana Thompson, Kathy Meller, Delores Vlach, Kent Nelson, and Frank Pascoe. Also present were Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe and Pastor David Viles. Absent was member Dan Tschirgi.

† The Council session began with President Finch offering praise for Pastor Viles' devotion which had been sent out to all members prior to the meeting. Other Council members heartily agreed.

† President Finch requested approval of the Council minutes of March 13th. Upon a motion by Jana Thompson, seconded by Kathy Meller, the motion received unanimous consent.

† President Finch called upon Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to present her monthly report. She presented to the members a four-page Statement of Financial Position. The report showed a Year-to-Date Balance of \$336,185.18 in all accounts. General income for the month totaled \$11,084.06. After the Treasurer's presentation, discussion focused on current expenses and current billing questions relating to the church basement renovation. Church Improvement Committee Chair Kent Nelson raised questions and focused the Council's attention to the state of billings and payment to the Matt Bridges Construction Company. Kent Nelson has requested from Mr. Bridges a 'time and materials' precisely itemized bill which should include all items completed, which has not yet been received from Mr. Bridges. After discussion, Kent Nelson gave the Church Treasurer the authorization to pay Mr. Bridges to date an additional amount of \$18,898.49. There was discussion regarding Mr. Bridges' work on the basement flooring, toilet installation, water heater issues, wall cutout, and door width.

† The President requested that Pastor Viles give his monthly Report: Pastor presented a page of March activities which included his mileage of 41 miles of visits to members. Upon a motion by Frank Pascoe, seconded by Stacy Bubach, his mileage funding of \$26.85 was approved via voice vote. Pastor's report enumerated seven meetings, including Ministerial Alliance, Lohman Town Council, Lions Club, and others. He made over seven personal home and office visits. He conducted two funerals, prepared Bulletins, and created the March Epistle. There were two Sunday Communion worship services, two non-communion Sunday services, and five mid-week Lenten services in-person and online with Facebook.

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

Evangelism: Chair Delores Vlach expressed thanks to Harry and Jana Thompson and to Jerry and Laurie Koestner for hosting April's Fellowship coffee and dessert occasion. Thanks to the Glen Stubinger family for hosting the March Fellowship hour. The delicious foods and drinks were much appreciated by all. Delores Vlach reported on a very pleasing and delightful Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Approximately twenty children took part filling their baskets, buckets, and bags with 450 well-hidden Easter eggs. Each child also received a sack full of candies prepared by Kathy Meller. Delores expressed thanks to our members who provided the candies, plastic eggs, and baskets. A special thanks went out to David and Trish Russell and to Marie Scheperle, and Kathy Meller for their work in filling the plastic eggs. She also gave thanks to Kent Nelson and Frank Pascoe for hiding and distributing the eggs in the church yards on Easter morning before services. She reported that a new-member reception will be held on Sunday May 7th . Two new members will be received by affirmation.

Technology: Chair Dan Tschirgi was absent from the meeting, thus no formal technology report. There was brief discussion of the effectiveness of the hearing aid devices made available for attendees who request them. The devices seem to be mostly effective, but perhaps not so much from the microphone at the Readers' lectern. The speakers in the basement also need some adjustments.

Worship & Music: Chair Kathy Meller reported on her Committee's April 4th meeting and subsequent worship events. Pleasure was expressed for Pastor's "Amazing Grace: series during Lenten services. The use of the "Holden Evening Prayer: Litany" by Marty Haugen was quite pleasing to all who gave remarks. We will continue to use Setting 10 until summer. \$300 was spent for additional bell music for the children. Everyone praised the children who turned out for the bell choir on Easter Sunday. The children will play again on Mother's Day service, May 14th, which will be a Communion Sunday with special guest Pastor Kimberly Knowle-Zeller officiating. An average of forty turned out for the Lenten services. Eight attended and sang at the Easter Sunday sunrise service at Trinity in Russellville. There will be a short Memorial Day recognition on May 28 in the cemetery honoring those who have gone before us. Brief discussion followed concerning the request by a former member of the congregation, who wishes to borrow or to acquire the two plaster angels which are no longer used and are stored. Pr. Viles will inform the congregation about this request.

Parish Education: The planned congregational meeting for those interested will follow the Sunday service on April 16th.

Church Improvement: Chair Kent Nelson continued discussion of payments to the Basement remodeling contractor. Also, some concern was expressed concerning a window in the balcony area which needed some additional security adjustment. Kent Nelson will look into what adjustment is needed.

Stewardship & Finance: Chair Stacy Bubach said due to the questions remaining over amounts to pay for basement remodeling no additional CD investments will proceed until the basement issues are resolved.

Mutual Ministry: Chair Jana Thompson reported the committee did not meet in March. The Committee members have expressed their desire that should a Sunday School Director/Teacher be selected, that individual would make monthly written reports to the Council, detailing the activities of their program.

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: Pastor Viles announced the funeral for Lester Linsenhardt will be held on Saturday, April 15th, with visitation from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., with the funeral service to begin at 11:00, and entombment to follow in St. Paul's cemetery. Pastor indicated Kathryn wished a memorial fund might be established in Lester's honor and directed toward refreshing the carpet in the sanctuary. Pastor Viles will look into the preferred methods for parishioners to make electronic contributions to the Church. He will share his findings with the Council members.

The President called for the adjournment of the meeting at 7:59 pm and was agreed to by all. The meeting ended with a recitation of the Our Father.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The April 11th Mobile Food Pantry was held at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot. We served 146 families and 392 people in those families. Had great weather to be outside serving our community. Items given out were cereal treats, sausage, assorted chips, pretzels, cheese crackers, cantaloupe, nectarines, lettuce, mushrooms, sour cream, cheese slices, limes, grapes and brussel sprouts. Thanks to all who volunteer. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder, Gary and Audrey Bunch.

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be May 9th.

Tipsy Tuesday: Debbie Boyce

I would like to invite any and all of the women to come to my home for a "Tipsy Tuesday" with wine, appetizers and enjoy social time with each other on May 30th. Please let me know if you plan to attend by May 21st. Debbie Boyce email: hisunshine75@hotmail.com or 562-322-3498.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

We will meet on Wednesday, May 17, to enjoy a very interesting program given by Dr. Greg Markway (son-in-law of Bill and Erika Gerth) and his brother Jack about the history of their grandfather. Please consider attending.

The Mystery of Joseph Aner Markway and the Orphan Train

Joseph Aner come to central Missouri in 1901 on an orphan train. But, who was he really? Where did he come from? In this presentation, Greg and Jack Markway, Joseph's grandsons, will share a brief history of orphan trains and tell of their work to uncover Joseph's history, with surprising twists and turns. You will learn how the orphan trains are part of the fabric of central Missouri.

If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 by Monday evening, May 15. The main course will be provided and we ask that you bring a dish to share. Thank you.

Fruendschaft Gruppe - Jeannette

Our group met on April 10 with 18 in attendance. We enjoyed a delicious dinner served by Donita and Glen and then proceeded with a lot of work. We scrubbed the new kitchen cabinets, moved numerous items back from the parsonage and garage and organized supplies. Our gruppe will now be in recess until September. Thanks to all who attended our meetings this past year and for all the work you contributed. We accomplished a lot.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Members of Margaret Circle gathered on April 25, 2023 for an evening of Bible study and fellowship. Ruth Stubinger began the study of God's Holy Word by reading the story of Jesus encounter with the woman at the well as recorded in John 4:6-29. She continued by sharing the historical context in which this encounter took place, and finished with a re-telling of the story in more contemporary language. May we, like the woman at the well, recognize the power of God's living water in our own lives!

Donita shared a thank you note from Russellville Elementary School for the Circle's donations to the Buddy Packs program.

The evening's offering was divided between the Samaritan Center, the Special Learning Center, and Rape and Abuse Crisis Services. These three organizations have a huge impact on the lives of people in our community, We thank God for their unique ministries and are grateful for the opportunity to participate.

Margaret Circle's next meeting, the annual salad supper, will take place at the home of Kay Pascoe on Tuesday evening, June 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Easter Sunrise Service: Kathy Meller

The Easter Sunrise Service was held at 6:30 a.m. on a beautiful Easter morning at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville. The three churches participating were St. Michael's Catholic Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and Trinity Lutheran. Msgr. Robert Kurwicki, Rev. David Viles, and Rev. Ed Merckel officiated. Each church was asked to send a group of singers to participate in the service. The St. Paul's singers were Stacy Bubach, Kathy Meller, Leroy Plochberger, Marie Scheperle, Dan Tschirgi, Rev. David Viles, and Donald Weber. They sang Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia! and were accompanied by Zola Finch. Pastor Merckel gave the Easter message. The offering went to the Central Missouri Food Bank. Following the service, Trinity provided a wonderful breakfast of breakfast casseroles, fruit, and pastries.

Easter Egg Hunt: Kathy Meller

This year's Easter Egg Hunt was organized by the Evangelism and Worship and Music committees. We were blessed with a beautiful Easter morning with clear blue skies and comfortable temperatures. Approximately 20 boys and girls participated in the hunt of 450 eggs which were hidden across the parsonage yard. Needless to say, the children were able to fill their baskets. After collecting their eggs the boys and girls were given "goodie" bags to take home. We want to thank all those that donated candy, to those who helped fill the eggs, and to those who helped hide the eggs. It really takes a village to make an event like this a success and we appreciate so much the help of everyone.



Thanks to Kathy Meller for providing these photos of the Easter Egg Hunt. Also a big thanks to Frank Pascoe and Kent Nelson for hiding all those eggs before worship service began on Easter morning. You two are wonderful Easter Bunnies!

Thank you to everyone who donated candy and supplies for this annual event that is much loved and gives our children so much joy.

Jr. Lutherans and Youth Group: Donita Stubinger

Dying eggs for Easter turned out to be a huge success. We had 37 attendees who enjoyed biscuits and gravy, sweets, fruit and drinks. We had grandparents, parents and children attending with Pastor David leading us in an Easter prayer. Thanks to everyone that attended to color the 22 dozen eggs. Parents and grandparents had as much fun dying eggs in whipped cream, in twisted towels, and regular egg dying. Before we were finished, Rosemary Heidbreder had her son, Ryan bring over the packed tubs from the parsonage in his truck. Rosemary and Audrey Bunch had selected tubs for the Freundschaft Gruppe to unpack at their Monday meeting. Thanks so much Ryan, Rosemary and Richard Heidbreder, Audrey Bunch, Leroy Plochberger, David & Trish Russell, Marie Schepelerle and the Jr. Lutherans for helping.

Sunday, May 21, 2023, plans are being made to take the Jr. Lutherans and their families to Reidel Alpaca Ranch in Tebbetts, MO. They will enjoy seeing the alpacas. They also have a small store where you can purchase items. After church we will have lunch downstairs and then carpool down to Tebbetts. Calls will be made to see how many are able to come. All are welcome.

Lester Linsenbardt family: Thank you, everyone for the many, many, cards, concerns, memorials and the reflections of Les that you have shared with me. What a blessing our St. Paul's people are to me and to our community as well.

Sincere appreciation, thank you and blessings to all. *Kathryn Linsenbardt*



Basement & Kitchen Remodel: We have been using the basement for events again and much of the kitchen has been finished. Matt Bridges has been paid for his work and we have a few installations by our St. Paul's people to complete the job. Thank you to everyone who has donated financial, time, and talent resources on this project.



Fellowship Coffee Hour: Thank you to the Koestners and Thompsons for delicious food and drinks on April 2nd. It is so good to have our gatherings again downstairs. In May we will have two Fellowship hours.

On May 7th we will have our traditional time and also celebrate and welcome our newest members Sharron Schneiders and Debbie Raithel. They have been members since the beginning of the year, but we have been waiting on the basement remodel to officially welcome them. On May 14th we will have another Fellowship Coffee Hour to welcome and greet Reverend Kimberly Knowle-Zeller who will be preaching and presiding over Holy Communion.

Mother's Day, May 14, 2023

This Mother's Day we will have a very special service at St. Paul's. While Pastor David takes a much deserved Sunday off, we will have a special guest. Reverend Kimberly Knowle-Zeller is an ordained ELCA pastor, mother of two, spouse of an ELCA pastor, and co-author of the book 'The Beauty of Motherhood: Grace-Filled Devotions for the Early Years.' She lives with her family in Cole Camp, MO. She will preside over our service that morning followed by a reception downstairs with refreshments provided by WELCA. She will be available to visit with those that attend, and she will also have copies of her book available for sale. We look forward to welcoming her and hearing her inspirational message.

St. Paul's Cemetery Inaugural Patriotic Observance 2023: Roger Pennell

We must never forget the sacrifices of the colonists who saw America as an opportunity to freely do things differently. Here they would have individual rights and self-government as well as religious freedom to practice their beliefs without having to fear the government. It was an opportunity for a better life.

As we begin to enjoy the warmer spring weather, let us reflect upon the contributions of the veterans who preserved what our ancestors created in the land. To honor these veterans, Ellen and Lorenz Strobel began placing American flags on the gravesites of the veterans prior to the Memorial Day service. They continued doing this ritual until 2014 when Carol and Gary Elliott assumed the rendering of these honors.

Last year, on the evening of June 29th, the Jr. Lutheran's of St. Paul's gathered at the cemetery to give their honor and respect by placing the flags on the gravesites prior to the annual Patriotic Services that was held the last Sunday before the Independence Day celebrations.

This year, St. Paul's cemetery will observe its first two month patriotic season from mid-May to mid-July. This period has several patriotic observances, some which are unknown to the public.

On the third Saturday of May, the Junior Lutherans will resume the time honored tradition of the placement of flags. The memorial flags will be left in place until after the traditional Independence Day celebration activities are over. We especially asked the youth to invite their friends and families to join them in this ceremony. All veterans are highly encouraged to bring any military souvenir items and relate their military service experience to the younger generation in order to raise their understanding and patriotic commitment to God and country. Volunteers are needed to help prepare a hotdog dinner for the youth and others who participates and join us for this event.

May 20th, Armed Forces Day, designated as the 3rd Saturday of May, we share an unending appreciation for the proud patriots who answered the call to serve, taking the sacred oath to defend the Constitution of the United States.

May 29th, Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day), is observed for the mourning of U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in our country's armed forces. On the Sunday before Memorial Day, the St. Paul's Memorial Day Outdoor Service salutes the honored veterans who served in our military during the many wars to keep our nation safe and free.

June 14th is the date of 2 significant events. It is celebrated every year as a remembrance of the country's first flag as the official American flag by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The Flag Resolution, passed on that day stated: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

But often overlooked is the second historical event on this date that occurred 2 years earlier. The United States Army was born on June 14, 1775 when the Continental Congress, meeting at Independence Hall in Philadelphia authorized the enlistment of soldiers for a Continental Army to fight for the independence of the 13 colonies. July 4th, the Declaration of Independence was adopted solidifying the American colonies' resolve to fight for their independence from Britain.

On Sunday, July 2nd, St. Paul's will observe its annual Patriotic Independence Day Service.

Calendar of Events and Schedules

- May 2nd**, Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the youth room upstairs.
- May 7th**, Sunday: Fellowship Coffee Hour in the basement after worship.
- May 7th**, Sunday: Baptism of George Henry England, New Members Sharron Schneiders & Debbie RaitheL.
- May 7th**, Sunday: Blessing of the Quilts.
- May 8th**, Monday: Church Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the youth room upstairs.
- May 9th**, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:15 p.m.
- May 14th**, Sunday: Mother's Day with special Guest Reverend Kimberly Knowle-Zeller preaching.
- May 14th**, Sunday: Fellowship in the basement, greeting Pastor Kim.
- May 16th**, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- May 17th**, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 am
- May 17th**, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting upstairs 6:30 p.m.
- May 20th**, Saturday: Jr. Lutherans will place flags on the St. Paul's cemetery military graves.
- May 21st**, Sunday: Jr. Lutherans going to Reidel Alpaca Ranch in Tebbetts, MO.
- May 26th**, Friday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
- May 28th**, Sunday: Memorial outdoor service following worship.
- May 30th**, Tuesday: Topsy Tuesday hosted by Debbie Boyce in her home.

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

Usher Schedule

May - 07	Jana Thompson	Dan Tschirgi
May - 14	Delores Vlach	Frank Pascoe
May - 21	Stacy Bubach	Kathy Meller
May - 28	Kent Nelson	Jana Thompson

Acolyte Schedule

May - 07	Madeline Stubinger
May - 14	Oliver Stoermer
May - 21	Mackenzie Linnenbrink
May - 28	Morgan Schroeder

Greeters Schedule

May - 07	Richard Heidbreder	Rosemary Heidbreder
May - 14	Jacklyn Wood	Kent Nelson
May - 21	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott
May - 28	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson

Readers Schedule

May - 07	Lori Meyer
May - 14	Nicole Benne
May - 21	Delores Vlach
May - 28	Frank Pascoe

Song Leader

May - 07	Dan Tschirgi
May - 14	Kathy Meller
May - 21	Dan Tschirgi
May - 28	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

May - 07	Roger Pennell
May - 14	Dan Tschirgi
May - 21	Roger Pennell
May - 28	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

May - 07	Kathy Meller
May - 14	Zola Finch
May - 21	Zola Finch
May - 28	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Jim and Cynthia Loesh

Communion Assistants

May - 14	Donald Weber
May - 28	Devin Koestner

Altar Flowers for the Month

Diane Kalaf

Security

May - 07	Jason Wood
May - 14	Devin Koestner
May - 21	Kent Nelson
May - 28	Harry Thompson

* Communion Days noted in **Yellow**