

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 67 No. 8

August - 2023

Pastor's Message

Story #1 (Reader's Digest)

While going through a divorce, my mother fretted over her new worries: no income, the same bills, and no way to afford groceries. It was around this time that she started finding boxes of food outside our door every morning. This went on for months until she was able to land a job. We never did find out who left the groceries, but they truly saved our lives. —Jamie Boleyn, Emmett, Idaho

Story #2 (Reader's Digest)

When the supermarket clerk tallied up my groceries, it was \$12 over what I had on me. I began to remove items from the bags when another shopper handed me a \$20 bill. "Please don't put yourself out," I told him. "Let me tell you a story," he said. "My mother is in the hospital with cancer. I visit her every day and bring her flowers. I went this morning, and she got mad at me for spending my money on more flowers. She demanded that I do something else with that money. So, here, please accept this. It is my mother's flowers." —Leslie Wagner, Peel, Arkansas

Story #3 (Matthew 14:15-21)

When it was evening, the disciples came to [Jesus] and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Epilogue

More than two thousand years ago, Jesus taught his disciples the meaning of God's grace, love, compassion, and kindness. The disciples of Jesus were thinking of themselves and the hardship they might endure in caring for so many in need. But Jesus says, 'do what you can, for who you can, and it will be enough.' Go out this day and do what you are able, and it will be enough at that moment with Jesus' help.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Scott Soell
- 5 Lindsey Plochberger
- 7 Ladine Heidbreder
- 8 Peyton Stubinger
- 9 Julie Griffin
- 14 John Loesch
- 15 Marlene Carlson
- 15 Nicole Benne
- 16 Kambry Pistel
- 17 Ashley Meyer
- 18 Lindsey Carrel
- 18 Michael Linhardt
- 18 Tinleigh Strobel
- 18 Delores Vlach
- 19 Kaysen Garner
- 22 Davin Pistel
- 24 Lucas Plochberger
- 24 Frank Pascoe
- 26 Harley Enowski
- 26 Michael Elliott
- 26 Jordan Russell
- 29 Barbara Carrel
- 29 Arabella Ferrell
- 29 Mandy Miller
- 29 Craig Stubinger
- 30 Jake Thompson
- 31 Marshal Schroeder

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
<i>JULY 02</i>	<i>82 / 101</i>	<i>\$ 4,768.00</i>
<i>JULY 09</i>	<i>83 / 77</i>	<i>\$ 2,664.01</i>
<i>JULY 16</i>	<i>83 / 110</i>	<i>\$ 3,032.96</i>
<i>JULY 23</i>	<i>84 / 109</i>	<i>\$ 1,425.00</i>
<i>JULY 30</i>	<i>75 / 105</i>	<i>\$ 2,935.00</i>

Additional Income:

Epistle: \$70.00

St. Paul's Carpet Fund: \$750.00 for a total of \$3,420.00.

Lamp Post: A huge shoutout and thank you to Chris Russell and **Xtreme Body & Paint** for sandblasting and repainting the lamp post and light top between the church and the parsonage. Also the top light fixture was completely restored with blasting and paint including replacing the glass.

Also a great thank you to David and Trish Russell for disconnecting and delivering it to Chris and then returning it and reconnecting it. The light and post is very impressive and looks better than anything that could have been purchased new. It is remarkable what our members do to keep our church updated and looking beautiful.



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mitchell & Laura Plochberger 2009
- 2 Mike & Diane Kalaf 1975
- 6 Frank & Kay Pascoe 1967
- 9 Larry & Debby Koestner 1969
- 16 Eric & Mary Beth Koestner 2003
- 20 Shawn & Ashleigh Hillen 2022
- 27 Pastor Ed & Carole Merckel 1977
- 27 Jim Crabtree & Sarah Gordon 2016

Baptism of Knox Daniel Olsen

Pastor loves baptisms and holding babies and July 16th didn't fail to bring joy to his heart. Knox, the son of Paige and Daniel Olsen, and brother of Karahlyne was so sweet, and did so well during this special day. He is a child of God.



Continued prayers for:

Ruth Strobel, Donna Viles, Julie Carel, Ladine Heidbreder, Linda Huff, and all we hold dear in our hearts.

Congregational Council Meeting, July 10, 2023

† A six o'clock PM regular meeting of St. Paul's Church Council met on Monday, July 10th. The meeting was held in the former church parsonage, hosted by Council President Zola Finch., who provided a bounty of tasty items for a pre-meeting meal. Council members present were Kent Nelson, Delores Vlach, Kathy Meller, Stacy Bubach, Dan Tschirgi, Frank Pascoe, and Zola Finch. Absent was Jana Thompson. Also present were Pastor David Viles, Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe, and parishioner Gus Fischer. Called to order by President Finch, the meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Viles. His devotion was presented to the members in a printed format.

† President Finch requested consideration of the previous Council minutes of June 12th. The minutes were approved upon a motion by Dan Tschirgi, seconded by Kent Nelson, and approved viva voce.

† The President called upon Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to give a monthly financial report. The Treasurer presented four pages of Financial Position as of June 30th, 2023. Year to date assets [cash& investments] totaled \$301,258.17. June income totaled \$11,756.99. June monthly expenditures totaled \$10,942.50. This left a positive June income amount of \$814.49. The balance of the Les Linsenhardt Carpet Fund is \$2,710.00. Members of the Council urged that the Council move forward with gaining bids and beginning work on this complex project.

† Pastor Viles was requested to present his monthly activity report. Pastor requested no mileage reimbursement for June. His report detailed six meetings including Worship & Music, Lions Club, Church Council, Lohman City Council, S.T.A.R.S., and Mutual Ministry. He detailed numerous individual meetings and prayer and counseling sessions. He conducted one funeral, prepared four Sunday Bulletins, a May Epistle, new Facebook entries, and updated the Church Website and Video services. He conducted two Communion Sunday services, and two non-communion services, with online Facebook Live presentations for each.

† President Finch requested guest parishioner Gus Fischer, a member of the Church's Stewardship/Finance Committee, to present his findings and opinions regarding his recent look into the Church's insurance status and current insurance expenditures. Mr. Fischer met with a Representative of our insurance provider, Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I., here at St. Paul's on June 22d. They discussed the various insurance provisions in our current contract with Church Mutual Insurance. With a replacement coverage amount of \$2,196,720 on the church building, the annual premium in 2023 is \$13,124.00, which includes coverage of church contents and the garage and parsonage. The insurance policy premium is increased by 4% each year. The 4% increase on all policies will amount to a premium increase of \$1,300 in 2024. The Council decided not to increase coverage on the building, garage, or parsonage, but asked Mr. Fischer to investigate the cost and possibility of increasing the coverage amount of the contents of the church.

President Finch then requested the various Council chairpersons to present their monthly reports:

Evangelism: Delores Vlach gave generous thanks to Donita Stubinger and David Russell for the July 2d Fellowship Hour, held in conjunction with the Independence Day service. The cinnamon rolls and other tasty foods were most enjoyable. Thanks were expressed also to Jr. Lutherans for their part in hosting this event. Although the Committee had a number of small mementos to hand out before the evening fireworks, they decided not to do it because a number of the smaller children were not accessible at the appropriate time before the fireworks began. They will be used sometime in the future. Delores voiced some disappointment at the lack of music which is usually heard at the Fireworks. Other Council members concurred. Delores reported that Family Day/Community Day will be held on September 10th. She welcomed new ideas and suggestions on how to improve this yearly event. The Church Council will host the August Fellowship Hour on the first Sunday in August. Council members

were reminded to prepare their treats for 15 people for that event; donuts, candies, cookies, fruit trays, etc., and to have them in place before services on August 6th.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi led the members in a general discussion of the new WisperNet Internet service. Dan had done occasional speed checks on the service and was generally pleased with its performance. Other members concurred.

Worship & Music: Kathy Meller stated the Committee met on June 6th. Setting 8 will be used in June, July and August. The choir and the Childrens' Bell Choir participated in the July 2d Patriotic Service. No July meeting is planned. Good reports on the July 2d Patriotic Service were offered by several Council members. Thanks were expressed to Kathryn Linsenbardt for getting out the numerous American flags for distribution. Also, appreciation was expressed to Delores Vlach for the individual pew decorations. There was brief discussion and voiced approval of the Council's recent decision to keep and possibly repair and reuse the ancient plaster Angels which were recently a topic of interest.

Parish Education: By all reports the Sunday school sessions were going well. There was a slightly increased number of children attending.

Church Improvement: Chair Kent Nelson said he would request bids for the carpet installation in the Sanctuary, Narthex, Stairs, and Balcony. Kent will also call a meeting of his committee to address other issues in need of attention.

Stewardship & Finance: Stacy Bubach briefly discussed with the Council how to approach and handle the ongoing controversy regarding the use or discontinuance of envelopes for church giving. Fewer and fewer parishioners utilize the individual Sunday envelopes. However, it was noted that the annual fee to purchase the envelopes is upon us and therefore any decision will be put off until next year. Therefore, individual envelopes will be available as before for the coming year. In the meantime, the Council should determine how best to receive individual offerings in person and via electronic receipt. The use of Venmo, a part of the PayPal digital online payment service, was discussed. Specific information to the congregation will be forthcoming on how to tie one's giving to the Church via Venmo. The suggestion that all contributions via Venmo be sent via e-mail to the Church Secretary [Debbie Raithel's Office] for transfer to the church's account was generally discussed and agreed to.

Mutual Ministry: An electronic report from Chairperson Jana Thompson was sent to all Council members on July 9th. This Committee met on June 21st at 5:30 pm. Three members and Pastor attended. There was positive discussion of the Fellowship Hours and of the present Sunday School. The critical need for a new kitchen stove was discussed. The Committee hoped that Kent Nelson and the Church Improvement Committee would move quickly to obtain a new stove. The future of offering envelopes was also discussed. It is hoped that each church family would decide what method they would prefer, be it cash, offering envelopes, or an electronic transfer such as Venmo. The Committee members also expressed their agreement and satisfaction that Council President Finch is residing in the old parsonage as agreed to by Council. The Mutual Ministry Committee will meet in July on the 19th.

Old Business: None suggested other than that discussed above. It was noted that the Church will be opened at 4:30 am on August 8th for the local election process.

New Business: President Finch reported that Jefferson City will plan for and participate in the 250th Anniversary of our Nation's founding, to be held on July 4th, 2026. She asked us to be thinking about how St. Paul's might participate on that upcoming occasion. The next Council meeting will be held on August 14th, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Council members expressed thanks to President Finch for the delicious food prepared for their evening at the Parsonage. The President called the meeting into adjournment at 8:20 pm upon a motion by Stacy Bubach, seconded by Kathy Meller, and agreed to by all. Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary.

Back to School Supplies:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the school supply give away project. Each year many students are blessed by the generosity of our local churches and St. Paul's on the Hill always comes through. These paper towels, markers, glue sticks, and backpack/book bags will make a difference.



Patriotic Service and 4th of July Celebration:

We honor the Veterans we see here who have served in the military and all others we do not see. L to R: Gus Fischer, Marvin Bubach, Jerry Koestner, Bill Gerth, Jason Wood, Richard Heidbreder, Mike Kalaf, Donald Weber, Leroy Plochberger, Melvin Stubinger, Glen Stubinger, and Gary Elliott. Pastor David prayed for these, and all who have kept our country free.



The evening festivities began with Gary Bunch grilling Super Dogs outside in the heat. Most everyone else was inside in the kitchen preparing desserts, and other items to go with the meals. Thanks to the Russellville / Lohman Fire Department for their diligence in keeping the grounds watered during the drought we experienced that increased the danger of fires. Also thanks to the Lohman Lion's Club for organizing the fireworks display. Thanks to everyone for all your work, energy, and enthusiasm in making this year's 247th celebration of our nation's freedom memorable.

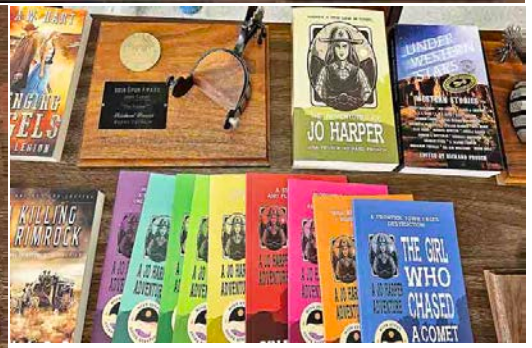
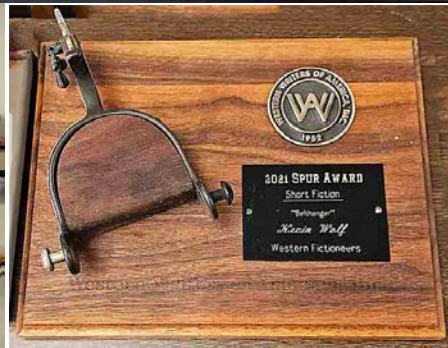


Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The July 11th Mobile Food Truck was in Russellville at Trinity on a hot sunny afternoon. A big thank you to Misty Bleich for getting nine new shopping carts and Terry, Alberta and Gary Zumwalt for picking them up and delivering to the Trinity Church garage for use at the mobile food pantry. We served 181 families with 527 people in those families. Items given out fresh produce: apples, lettuce, onions, spinach, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, other items cheese, chef salads, milk, assorted sunflower seeds, vegetable oil, candy bars, donuts, Lunchables (ham and cheese) and (turkey and cheese). Thanks to all the volunteers that helped. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, and from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Gary and Audrey Bunch. The next mobile food pantry will be August 8th.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

Twenty six STARS gathered on July 19 to enjoy a wonderful super dog lunch prepared by our Master Griller, Gary Bunch. This was a well chosen menu since July 19 was the designated official National Hot Dog Day. Our program was given by Rich and Gina Prosch with presentations of books they have authored and information concerning the "nuts and bolts" of the publishing business.



Our next meeting will be August 16 and our luncheon menu will feature tacos and taco salads. Our speaker will be Sheryl Perrigo, owner of The Frame Shop located in Jefferson City. She will advise us about the importance of proper framing and preservation and share stories about the most interesting and unusual items she has framed. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 by Monday, August 14.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Margaret Circle invites all women of the church, and their friends, to the Circle's next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, August 1, 2023. We will meet at the church at 6:30 PM. Ruth Stubinger will host, and Kay Pascoe will lead us in Bible study. Please RSVP to Erika Gerth by email, erikagerth329@gmail.com, or phone (573) 635-6681, to let us know you are coming

WELCA: Donita Stubinger

Women of the church are invited to meet Wednesday, August 9th, at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall at church to discuss Chili Supper plans coming up on October 1, 2023.

Jr. Lutherans and Youth Group: Donita Stubinger

Jr. Lutherans want to thank David and Trish Russell for helping make the cinnamon rolls for the 4th July celebration and to the parents and grandparents for serving and helping with the cleanup. Without your help, none of these projects would be possible. Thank you so very much.

Once again, Chris and Liz Russell have extended their hospitality to the Jr. Lutherans and the Youth Group to join them at their home at 1007 Lomo Drive, Jefferson City, to go swimming on Sunday August 13, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the afternoon.

Please remember to mark the 14th of September for a fun filled day of fellowship on Family Day. Bingo is one of our favorite games and the church will have a great selection of bingo prizes. Plus, all the outside games and all the food you can possibly eat! Please make an effort to join us at these activities that are planned with your fellow classmates and friends. All are welcome so bring your family and friends to make the day very special with lots of memories.

TEAM VBS 2023: Jana Thompson

Stellar—Shine Jesus' light! The week of Sunday, July 9th through July 13th. 55 kids met at Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville for Team VBS 2023! 14 of the kids were St. Paul's members and there were at least 10 or more adults from St. Paul's who lead or helped in the three rotation groups and serving in the kitchen.



St. Michael's and Russellville United Methodist also had kids attending VBS. Misty Schroeder provided wonderful meals for all who attended VBS, and she also had some great helpers as well! After the meals, all the kids met to sing for the "Blast Off" and to hear from the area ministers. Pastor Viles shared Tuesday and Wednesday during the "Blast Off", showing a special light in his hand and telling how we all could share and shine Jesus' light.

Then, each day the kids had special Bible adventures, All Star Games and snacks, and the Imagination Station or crafts. At the end of every evening, special songs were sung and the Cosmic Closing brought each night to a close. On Thursday evening, there was a review of the daily Bible points and songs, a wonderful video slideshow of the week's activities, and then the swimming pool party at Russellville Community pool for everyone to enjoy! Stellar — shine Jesus' light, was a great success!

St. Paul's Chili Supper and Country Store 2023: Marlene Carlson

October 1st will be the Annual St. Paul's Chili Supper. As always your help will be appreciated on this day full of fellowship, fun, and good eats. The Chili Supper Committee will begin handing out work and donation slips around the first of September. Again if you know that you will be unable to help and bring your items, please let us know as soon as possible so additional planning can be done. We will again be having a Country Store this year. Canned goods, fresh produce, handiwork, and baked goods are always welcome. It's a treat to see the array of items that we have for sale. We will have a line for to-go food, if you would like to use that service instead of dining in. Take a moment to invite your friends and family to attend. If you have any questions, please let Kathy Meller (782-4788) or Marlene Carlson (690-0117) hear from you.

Calendar of Events and Schedules

- August 1st**, Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee will meet in the basement at 9:00 am.
August 1st, Tuesday: Margaret Circle will meet in the basement and enjoy Taco supper at 6:30 pm
August 6th, Sunday: Children's Sunday school during worship after the Children's sermon.
August 6th, Sunday: Fellowship Coffee Hour in the basement after worship.
August 8th, Tuesday: Local Elections in the Church basement.
August 8th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:15 p.m.
August 9th, Wednesday: WELCA meeting at 9:00 a.m. to discuss Chili Supper.
August 13th, Sunday: Jr. Lutherans will have a swim party at Liz & Chris Russell's home 2 to 4 pm.
August 14th, Monday: Church Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the youth room upstairs.
August 15th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.
August 16th, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. with the Frame Shop presenting.
August 16th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting upstairs 6:30 p.m.
August 23rd, Wednesday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.

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

Usher Schedule

Aug. - 06	Kathy Meller	Kent Nelson
Aug. - 13	Jana Thompson	Dan Tschirgi
Aug. - 20	Delores Vlach	Frank Pascoe
Aug. - 27	Stacy Bubach	Kathy Meller

Acolyte Schedule

Aug. - 06	Oliver Stoermer
Aug. - 13	Madeline Stubinger
Aug. - 20	Morgan Schroeder
Aug. - 27	Lucas Plochberger

Greeters Schedule

Aug. - 06	Jerry Koestner	Devin Koestner
Aug. - 13	Jacklyn Wood	Kent Nelson
Aug. - 20	Richard Heidbreder	Rosemary Heidbreder
Aug. - 27	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott

Readers Schedule

Aug. - 06	Trish Russell
Aug. - 13	Harry Thompson
Aug. - 20	Jessica Stoermer
Aug. - 27	Nicole Benne

Song Leader

Aug. - 06	Dan Tschirgi
Aug. - 13	Kathy Meller
Aug. - 20	Kathy Meller
Aug. - 27	Dan Tschirgi

Audio / Video Technician

Aug. - 06	Roger Pennell
Aug. - 13	Dan Tschirgi
Aug. - 20	Dan Tschirgi
Aug. - 27	Roger Pennell

Organist / Keyboard

Aug. - 06	Zola Finch
Aug. - 13	Zola Finch
Aug. - 20	Zola Finch
Aug. - 27	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Carol Elliott & Marie Scheperle

Communion Assistants

Aug. - 13	Donald Weber
Aug. - 27	Audrey Bunch

Altar Flowers for the Month

Marlene Carlson

Security

Aug. - 06	Kent Nelson
Aug. - 13	Jason Wood
Aug. - 20	Devin Koestner
Aug. - 27	Melvin Stubinger

* Communion Days noted in Yellow