

EPIS⁺TLE



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

Volume 68 No. 2

February - 2024

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Pastor's Message

ASH WEDNESDAY & THE LENTEN SEASON

“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” Genesis 3:19

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14, 2024. This is also Valentine's Day. On Ash Wednesday we gather for reflection, repentance, and spiritual preparation. On Valentine's Day we reflect on our love for someone special.

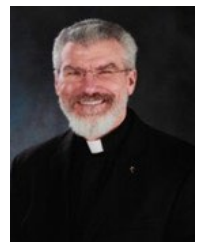
Perhaps on this year's combined Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day we can reflect on our love of God and his great love for us. As we consider the times we have neglected God and disobeyed the teachings of his Son, our Savior and Lord, remember his love for you. Take time to repent of those things known and unknown. Pray for God's forgiveness and to give you strength to stay on the path of his will. This is how you will spiritually prepare yourself for the coming of our Lord.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our Lenten Season. Lent will last 40 days not counting Sundays, so a total of 46 days, then Easter.

Reminder: This year St. Paul's is hosting the Easter Sunrise Community Service. It is early, hence, Sunrise, but your presence would be awesome. Then you can come back at 9:00am for our regular service.

The 40 days of Lent is a time to consider our relationship with God and to spiritually renew our self and realign our self with him. We did this last year and then carried palm branches into the sanctuary on Palm Sunday. We were jubilant and happy until 4 days later when we heard about Jesus' last supper, and the announcement he would be betrayed by one of his own disciples. The following day we were saddened further to hear of Jesus' arrest, flogging, and death on a cross of wood and nails. Then three days later we were greeted by the risen Christ on Easter morning and all was joyful and good. But during the following months the ancient deceiver called us from a tempting world and we couldn't help ourselves. So, here we are again in the season of Lent, to reflect, repent, and renew our spirit.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



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 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
- 27 Maura Tierney

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
JANUARY 07	75 / 173	\$ 2,842.00
JANUARY 14	Snow / 316	\$ 0,000.00
JANUARY 21	81 / 94	\$ 3,580.61
JANUARY 28	117 / 132	\$ 3,775.00

Additional Income:

Initial Offering Envelope \$ 235.00
Epistle Postage \$ 50.00

HOLY BAPTISM OF ADA LEA ENOWSKI

Ada Lea Enowski, daughter of Makayla and Harley Enowski, was baptized on January 28, 2024. She did great and I am so proud to be her, and her family's Pastor. January ended with a blessing that only God can bestow on St. Paul's Congregation. Pastor David



Ash Wednesday Offerings will support Oaks Indian Center

Mid-Week Lenten Offerings will support ELCA Hunger Appeal

118 FEB 14 2024 118

Ash Wednesday

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

118 FEB 21 2024 118

Lenten Offering

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Glen & Donita Stubinger 1973
- 14 Pastor David & Donna Viles 1981
- 14 Daniel & Paige Olsen 2020
- 24 Patty & Scott Duncan 2014 **10 Years**
- 27 Peter & Susan Neenan 1989 **35 Years**

Continued prayers for: *Jerry Koestner, Richard Heidbreder, Royal & Evelyn Speidel, Donna Viles, Jean Fink, Julie Carel, Cecil Knernschild, Linda Huff, and all we hold dear in our hearts.*

Audrey Bunch: Thank you all for all the prayers, and cards during my recovery from knee surgery. You are a great church family.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

There is a table in the Narthex for soup. Please bring in what you can to donate to the Russellville Food Pantry.

Every Can gets the CHIEFS a little closer to winning the Super Bowl.

GO CHIEFS beat the 49ers !!!!

Congregational Council Meeting, January 8, 2024

† A six o'clock pm regular meeting of the Congregational Council of St. Paul's Church opened via zoom on Monday, January 8th, 2024. The zoom meeting was established by Council President Zola Fich. Council members present for the meeting via zoom were Jana Thompson, Kathy Meller, Delores Vlach, Kent Nelson, Stacy Bubach, and Frank Pascoe. Also, present were Pastor David Viles and Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe. Member Dan Tschirgi reported via e-mail on his activities.

† The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor Viles. President Finch requested approval of the minutes of the previous month's Council minutes. This was accomplished via motion by Jana Thompson, seconded by Delores Vlach, and approved via voice vote by all. The President requested Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to give her monthly report. Our electronic communication accounts are now handled through WisperNet. Insurance bills are increasing by an estimate of \$300.00. The proposed new general budget recommends a 5% increase in Pastor Viles salary. The annual auditing of the Treasurer's books will be done prior to the annual meeting on January 21. The President requested approval of the Treasurer's report. This was done via a motion offered by Delores Vlach, seconded by Jana Thompson, and approved by all.

† The President requested Pastor David Viles to present his summary of the previous month's pastoral activities. Pastor's report requested no December mileage reimbursement. His meetings included Worship & Music, Lohman Lions Club, Church Council, and Lohman City Council. He had visits with parishioners concerning upcoming baptisms, and personal concerns. His activities included assisting with putting up the Christmas tree and its decorations; helping to plan and organize the Safety & Security meeting with Gary Moore; conducting the Christmas Eve worship service; updating the church website; Bulletin preparation and Facebook updates; and creating and e-mailing the December Epistle. He presided over three Sunday communion worship services in-person and online, and three non-communion worship services in person and online. In Pastor's printed devotion he gave hearty thanks and appreciation for the three Council members whose terms are ending: Delores Vlach, Kathy Meller and Dan Tschirgi.

President Finch requested the Council members committee reports:

Evangelism: Chairperson Delores Vlach gave thanks to all who provided the food for the first Fellowship Coffee of 2024. Special thanks to Donita Stubinger for making the coffee. And special thanks to her committee members, Trish Russell, Marie Scheperle, and Sharron Schneiders who helped with the serving and cleaning up after the event.

Technology: Chairman Dan Tschirgi reported that in December the wireless microphone receiver became inoperative, requiring the song leaders to sing from the lectern microphone for three weeks. Fortunately, after a back-and-forth with the manufacturer and without their help, it just needed a new DC power adapter which was available at Walmart and now the unit is again working. Dan offered his opinion on the proposed use of a projector during worship to display the hymns, prayers, etc. on the right front wall above the pulpit. He favors the idea for the reason it would lift our heads and voices as we sing. Utilizing such a device would require an additional operator in the balcony or other location. This proposal about using a projector during worship will be discussed at future meetings. Dan asked if we might consider a new jack at the altar for an additional microphone.

Worship & Music: Chairperson Kathy Meller reported that February hymns choices are being collected from her committee members. Setting No. 10 will continue. Ash Wednesday service will be held February 14th at 6:30 pm, with communion and imposition of ashes. There will be Mid-Week Lenten Services with Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary on Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, & 20th. Palm Sunday is March 24th, with the procession with palms. Maundy Thursday will fall on March 28th.

Good Friday on March 29th, with refreshments following downstairs. St. Paul's will host the Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 am in our sanctuary with a continental breakfast to follow the service. Easter Sunday is March 31st at 9:00 am with two communion stations. There was brief discussion of the need for more new music, for selections that might attract a younger audience. We might also consider looking for volunteers to play instruments on occasions.

Church Improvement: Chairman Kent Nelson reported he has not had recent contact with Sommers Interiors to gain a specific date for the carpet installation. He will attempt to do so after the meeting in the coming days.

Stewardship & Finance: No Report

Mutual Ministry: Chairperson Jana Thompson reported that in her committee staff evaluations were discussed, and that the needed background checks for those who work with children are completed. Jana said that her committee will need two replacement members for 2024. She will also investigate the distribution of the annual Time & Talent surveys which are done in January/February. This year they may be distributed in a paper and in an electronic format.

Old Business: There was brief discussion of the ongoing question about the need for additional outside security and motion lighting. No decision has been reached at this point. The need for security clearance for our members who are conceal/carry persons will be taken up soon. The possible need for liability insurance is a concern to address. Additional consultation with the Security group is forthcoming.

There was discussion of our recent decision to create an enhanced Altar Guild. Progress has been made in that almost all the individuals involved in cleaning the communion ware are also willing to become participants in setting up the communion prior to Sunday services. Training sessions will be arranged in the near future.

New Business: There was discussion concerning items that need to be presented to the congregation in the upcoming annual meeting on Sunday January 21st. These would include the proposal to introduce a screen above the right front wall above the angelic painting. Also, the urgent need for new Church Council members to replace the outgoing three should be emphasized to the congregation at that time.

The zoom meeting ended upon a request by President Finch for Pastor Viles to lead the participating members in a recitation of the Our Father.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The January Mobile Food Pantry was cancelled due to bad weather on January 9th. The next Mobile date is February 13th.

Samaritan Center Supplies: Audrey Bunch

Thank you to all the people that donate items to the Samaritan Center, egg cartons and grocery bags. Rosemary and I deliver these items when we volunteer.

Children's Sunday School: Pastor David

Children's Sunday school continues to be a great success under the leadership of Wendy Barker and AJ Ferrell. A J Ferrell has joined the Church Council as the Chairperson of the Parish Education and we are excited for her leadership and knowledge of teaching. With the help of Wendy Barker, I'm confident our Sunday School kids are going to have a fun time learning about Christ, our Lord.

Jr. Lutherans and Youth Group: Donita Stubinger

Forty-five plus attendees enjoyed spaghetti, meatballs, pulled pork sandwiches, and desserts after worship on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Afterwards, they went to the Washington Park Ice Skating Arena. 20 of those brave souls put on their skates and slid across the cold, cold, ice. It was amazing to watch both skilled skaters and first timers enjoy the slippery ice. When they fell, they picked themselves up and continued to learn the art of staying upright on two blades of steel.



Plans are being made to visit the Primrose Retirement Home for February 18th or 25th after church service and lunch in the basement. Crafts will be provided for the children to make for the residents of Primrose. We will present the crafts while going to their apartments and visiting whoever is there. More news will follow in bulletins and phone calls. Please make plans to attend.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

Our STARS group will meet on February 21 at 11:30 for lunch. Our program will be What Do You Collect? Bring a few samples of your favorite collection and tell us about it. Bring a dish to share and make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 by Monday, February 19.

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

Many thanks to the 15 people who helped remove all the Christmas decorations and store everything away on January 3. Our work load was made much lighter thanks to Kathryn who previously took down all the outside greenery and to Pastor who arrived early and dismantled parts of the tree. Afterward we enjoyed our usual wine, cheese and soup supper. We especially appreciated the 3 pots of soup. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12, with dinner served at 5:30. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Jeannette at 782-4594 by 9 PM on Sunday, February 11.

Quilts, Quilts, Quilts: Jeannette Fischer

Our annual quilt making days are scheduled for February 14 and 19. We will begin about 8:30 or whenever you arrive. The good news is that lunch will be provided both days, thanks to Donita. There is a rumor that quite a few quilt tops have been constructed, so we will have plenty of work to do. Check the bulletin board in the narthex for information on distribution of our mission quilts through Lutheran World Relief.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Margaret Circle welcomes all women of St. Paul's and their friends to another year of fellowship and stimulating Bible study! The first meeting of 2024 will take place at the church on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. We will gather at the church at 6:30 PM; Donita Stubinger will provide refreshments and Ruth Stubinger will lead us in the study of God's Holy Word. RSVP: erikagerth329@gmail.com or (573) 635-6681. We look forward to seeing you!

Safety and Security: Jason Wood

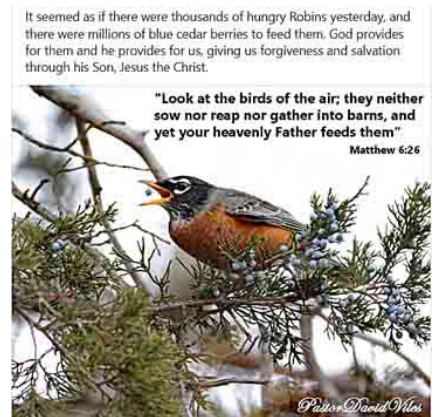
We will have a meeting on February 4th, after our Worship service. Let's plan to meet in the large Sunday school room next to Pastor's office.

The previous quote for camera upgrades to include the Parsonage has been determined to be unnecessary by the Church Council. So Scott Grunden will come out to give us a quote for extra security camera for the church only. We look forward to implimenting additional tools to allow us to stay safe and secure.

Bell Choir: The Children will perform "Go tell it on the Mountian" the first Sunday of February. Come out and enjoy this enthusiastic group of Bell Ringers. It is always a joy to watch these kids ringing their bells with all their heart and they do a wonderful job watching the cards telling them when to ring.

Daily Devoitions on FaceBook: Pastor David

Many of you have noticed the disapearence of the pictorial devoitions I have posted on FaceBook. I've heard you have missed them and I have missed creating them and posting them. So after a month long hiatias, I will be bringing them back beginning in February. If you are not aware of these and would like to check them out, just go to our Church FaceBook page and look at the daily posts. There you will find the devoitions as well as the recordings of our Sunday services including special events, marriages, funerals, and life in the church together at St. Paul's on the Hill.



Calendar of Events and Schedules

- February 4th**, Sunday: Children's Sunday School after the Children's Sermon.
- February 4th**, Sunday: Fellowship Hour in the basement. Hosted by Donita and Glen Stubinger.
- February 4th**, Sunday: Safety & Security meeting after church service in the youth room upstairs.
- February 6th**, Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee will meet in the basement at 9:00 a.m.
- February 6th**, Tuesday: Margaret Circle will meet at Church at 6:30 p.m.
- February 12th**, Monday: Freundschaft Gruppe in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- February 12th**, Monday: Church Council meeting in Sunday school youth room at 6:00 p.m.

February 13th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.
February 14th, Wednesday: Quilt Tacking Day in the basement, doors open at 8:30 a.m.
February 14th, Wednesday: Ash Wednesday Service with Communion at 6:30 p.m.
February 18th, Sunday: Jr. Lutherans will meet downstairs for lunch, crafts, and trip to Primrose.
February 19th, Monday: Quilt Tacking Day in the basement, doors open at 8:30 a.m.
February 20th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m.
February 21st, Wednesday: STARS meets at 11:30 a.m. with program to follow.
February 21st, Wednesday: Lenten service 6:30 p.m.
February 22nd, Thursday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
February 24th, Saturday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
February 28th, Wednesday: Lenten service 6:30 p.m.

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

Usher Schedule

Feb. - 04	Stacy Bubach	AJ Ferrell
Feb. - 11	Kent Nelson	Frank Pascoe
Feb. - 14	Jana Thompson	Misty Schroeder
Feb. - 18	Stacy Bubach	AJ Ferrell
Feb. - 21	Kent Nelson	Frank Pascoe
Feb. - 25	Jana Thompson	Misty Schroeder
Feb. - 28	Stacy Bubach	AJ Ferrell

Acolyte Schedule

Feb. - 04	Lucas Plochberger
Feb. - 11	Mackenzie Linnenbrink
Feb. - 14	Oliver Stoermer
Feb. - 18	Madeline Stubinger
Feb. - 21	Not Needed
Feb. - 25	Morgan Schroeder
Feb. - 28	Not Needed

Greeters Schedule

Feb. - 04	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott
Feb. - 11	Devin Koestner	Jerry Koestner
Feb. - 14	David Russell	Trish Russell
Feb. - 18	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle
Feb. - 21	Jason Wood	Jacklyn Wood
Feb. - 25	Rosemary Heidbreder	Richard Heidbreder
Feb. - 28	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson

Readers Schedule

Feb. - 04	Trish Russell
Feb. - 11	Frank Pascoe
Feb. - 14	Audrey Bunch
Feb. - 18	Jessica Stoermer
Feb. - 21	Not needed
Feb. - 25	Jana Thompson
Feb. - 28	Not needed

Song Leader

Feb. - 04	Kathy Meller
Feb. - 11	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. - 14	Kathy Meller
Feb. - 18	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. - 21	?
Feb. - 25	Kathy Meller
Feb. - 28	?

Audio / Video Technician

Feb. - 04	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. - 11	Roger Pennell
Feb. - 14	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. - 18	Roger Pennell
Feb. - 21	?
Feb. - 25	Dan Tschirgi
Feb. - 28	?

Organist / Keyboard

Feb. - 04	Zola Finch
Feb. - 11	Zola Finch
Feb. - 14	Zola Finch
Feb. - 18	Zola Finch
Feb. - 21	Zola Finch
Feb. - 25	Zola Finch
Feb. - 28	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Kathryn Linsenbardt

Communion Assistants

Feb. - 11	Laurie or Jerry Koestner
Feb. - 14	Trish Russell
Feb. - 25	Jessica Stoermer

Altar Flowers for the Month

Audrey Bunch

* Communion Days noted in Yellow