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#### **Contact Information:**

Church 573-782-4458 Leave Message

Address: 8618 Church Hill Dr. Lohman, MO 65053

Pastor: Rev. David Viles Cell Phone: 479-670-2000

Website:

http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org

FaceBook:

https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill

# **Pastor's Message**

## The journey of Lent ends in great joy.

"Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit." Psalm 32:1-2

Our Lenten season continues throughout the whole month of March ending on the last day. During this time we will be Guided to the Cross alongside Jesus and discover what he did and why he did it.

People like to say, "God has a plan!" They are right, he does have a plan and it was formed in the beginning of time when he created the heavens and the earth. He created mankind from the dust of the earth knowing one day they would return to the dust. We comemorated this knowledge on Ash Wednesday last month when many of you showed up to receive the mark of the ashen cross and hear those words.

God's plan didn't turn out as he had hoped as he saw his children disobey him and this would be the first of many more sins committed. When one thing failed God would send Prophets to speak his word to the people and urge them to return to him. This often ended with his Prophets being killed or sent away where they could not make known God's truth and justice.

We can never hear God's word as often as we should. Come out on Wednesday evenings and spend a little extra time hearing, learning, and repenting as you are forgiven. That is your part in God's Plan, and then watch his plan unfold during Maundy Thursday and Good Friday when we experience how his love continues. His followers will flee, his Son will suffer and die a horrible death, one of Jesus' most trusted disciples will deny him three times. Still, God's Son, while dying on the cross will interceed for you and cry out to the Father, "forgive them, for they know not what they are doing."

God's plan is for you to be with him in his Kingdom, and God will do anything until his plan is fulfilled.

**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 9:00 am for our regular service.

Your servant in Christ Jesus, Pastor David Viles



#### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2	Jeannette Fischei
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

- J.D. MurphyCori Soell
- 14 Carol Elliott15 Jayce Tschirqi
- 16 Lisa Beard
- Tom Kirchner
- 16 Elizabeth Russell
- 18 Rosemary Heidbreder
- 18 Sloane Heidbreder
- 19 Richard Heidbreder
- 20 Keagan Strobel
- Paula LinsenbardtLaura 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



#### **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

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

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

Pastor David & Donna: Thank you for all the prayers, and cards, food, and good thoughts during our Covid illness. You are the light of Christ and the best Congregation ever.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
FEBRUARY 04	75 / 238	\$ 3,071.00
FEBRUARY 11	104 / 63	<i>\$ 3,276.61</i>
FEBRUARY 18	73 / 177	\$ 2,021.00
FEBRUARY 25	75 / 177	\$ 1,904.00

#### **Additional Income:**

Initial Offering Envelope \$ 55.00 Epistle Postage \$ 20.00

#### **BABIES – BABIES - BABIES**



Huxton Rhett, son of Abby and Dawson Rhodes was born on February 6, 2024. He weighed 7lbs 14 oz. and 19 3/4 inches long. Congratulations to this precious family. Grandma Stacy's feet haven't touched the ground yet.



Dash Richard, son of Ashley and Ryan Heidbreder was born on February 7, 2024. He weighed 8lbs 10oz. and 20 inches long. Congratulations to this adorable family. Big Sister Sloane is secretly in love with little brother.



Lucy Louise, daughter of Miranda and Luke England was born on February 16, 2024. She weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz. and 20 inches long. Congratulations to this beautiful family. Big brother George is curious.





# Congregational Council Meeting, February 12, 2024

- † A six o'clock pm regular meeting of the Congregational Council of St. Paul's ELCA was called into session by Council President Zola Finch. Council members present for the meeting were Stacy Bubach, Jana Thompson, Misty Schroeder, A.J. Ferrell, and Frank Pascoe. Absent was Kent Nelson. Also present were Pastor David Viles and Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe.
- † The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Viles. The President requested a motion to approve the past Council minutes of January 8th, 2024. Approval was done upon a motion offered by Stacy Bubach, seconded by Jana Thompson, and agreed to via voice vote by all. President Finch requested Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to present a report regarding the Church's recent expenditures and general financial status. The Treasurer's four-page Statement of Financial Position, including a detailed Statement of monthly income and expenses, was distributed to all, showing the church's Cash & Investments at \$312,525.97, with Dedicated Accounts totaling \$34,392.55. Brief discussion was held regarding the need to investigate additional local CD returns. President Finch spoke to the wish by Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to retire after more than twenty years as Church Treasurer. After a bid of \$600-\$1,000 from Evers and Company to take over the handling of the Church's financial bookkeeping was excessive, President Finch indicated we must do further research to find a replacement for Kay Pascoe. Discussion followed regarding the best way to accomplish this. Advertising in the local newspaper was suggested. It was thought that a replacement would need to devote from 10 - 30 hours a month to this position. President Finch indicated she would put the position on the mobile app indeed.com. A monthly salary is yet to be determined. President Finch requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was made by Misty Schroeder, seconded by Jana Thompson, and approved by all.
- † The President requested Pastor Viles to present his monthly statement of activities. Pastor requested no January mileage reimbursement. His January summary of meetings attended included Lohman Lions Club, Worship & Music, Church Council, Mutual Ministry, Lohman City Council, the Annual Congregational Meeting, and Area Ministerial Alliance. Pastor had personal visits regarding the Tyler Soell & Katie Rose wedding, the Baptism of Ada Enowski, a non-member upcoming wedding at The Branch, and numerous phone and personal conversations with our members. His dutiful activities included changing the carillion bell songs, helping remove the Christmas tree and ornaments, a live Face Book worship service on a snowy Sunday, preparation of bulletins and church website each Sunday, and creation of the January Epistle and its emailing. Pastor officiated at one Communion Sunday worship service in person and online. He held two non-Communion Sunday services in person and online. Pastor reported on his adjustment of the Church's tower clock. He indicated he would inform Council member Kent Nelson of the need to attend to a broken element of the Church's outside Cross. The President requested approval of Pastor Viles' January activity report, which was done upon a motion by Frank Pascoe, seconded by Misty Schroeder, and approved by all.

#### President Finch requested the Council members committee reports and activities:

**Evangelism**: Chair Misty Schroeder had numerous questions and comments concerning upcoming Evangelism responsibilities and activities. The upcoming Easter Sunday, March 31, light breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service, to be hosted this year by St. Paul's, was discussed. An estimate of perhaps 50 persons may attend. Misty discussed her desire to expand St. Paul's evangelism activities. She proposed an expanded effort to contact members who are infrequent attendees at Sunday services and other church activities. A "bring a Friend" activity is another idea to expand and increase Sunday attendance. She and her committee will work toward doing this in the coming months. It is her desire to attempt to have a bigger attendance at our annual Pancake Breakfast set for Sunday April 7th. She suggested that this event might be advertised in our local News Tribune.

She is also thinking of new ways to honor our high School and college graduates during June and thereafter.

**Technology:** President Finch addressed the congregation's interests and concerns regarding the proposed screens for the sanctuary. Several Council members reported on conversations they have had with various parishioners regarding the proposed screens and the potential locations within the sanctuary. Council members who have attended services at Trinity Church in Russellville spoke very favorably of that Church's utilization of the screens and their placement. President Finch requested Pastor Viles to meet with Pastor Ed Merckel and discuss and learn how his congregation welcomed and accepted the installation of the screens. It is anticipated that our congregation will want to further discuss the utilization of screens here at St. Paul's.

Council President Finch brought the Council's attention to the new camera bid for four new cameras and one 40" TV monitor by Precision Security's Scott Grunden for a total of \$3,690.00. This amount for the final cost will depend upon St. Paul's parishioners pulling the existing wires instead of Precision Security staff. There was general agreement to accept this offer. A motion to do so was offered by Misty Schroeder, seconded by A.J. Ferrell, and approved by all.

Safety & Security: Pastor Viles called the Council's attention to the need to purchase insurance for our Security Team members who practice "conceal/carry" on our Sunday services and other church events. Mr. Gary Moore, who recently did a Security presentation after Sunday services in December, recommended USCCA organization for individual insurance. Pastor found that area firearms training organizations recommended this USCCA firm as the best insurance. He suggested three parishioners who are Security Team members be insured. The lowest USCCA package is \$299.00 per month per person. This was discussed by Council members. President Finch suggested we might insure only two persons per Sunday. There were questions. Could there be group coverage, or must individual personnel be identified? It was suggested Pastor ask Pastor Ed Merckel how Trinity security personnel were insured. He agreed to do so and report back. A member shared with the Council the Byrna, a recently purchased device, which disables with a non-lethal projectile. This device would shoot out mace, pepper spray, and other non-lethal items to bring any intruder to their knees. Its estimated purchase price was around \$400.00. Members who examined the device expressed their approval.

Parish Education: Chairperson A. J. Ferrell said she is very hopeful of reinstituting the annual Christmas Program featuring the children of our congregation. She also plans to introduce texting to all Sunday School children and their parents, alerting them to upcoming events, Sunday School times, and other things the children and their parents should become aware of. Council members will also receive the texts. Discussion with the Council focused on how much, if any, Sunday school might take place during the summer school vacation period. It was generally agreed that few summer Sunday School sessions during June/July/August would probably occur. A.J. said she would certainly confer and coordinate activities with Wendy Barker and other teachers and assistants.

There followed discussion about Council members' current responsibilities each Sunday. It was decided after discussion that due to the newly expanded Altar Guild and the expanded duties they will perform with communion preparation, etc. that a single Council Usher is necessary each Sunday. If Council members are unable to be present for Usher duties, they should call upon any other available Council member to fill in and substitute for them on those Sundays, or to trade the responsibility for that day. President Finch said she will re-do the Greeter/Usher schedule to reflect this change, eliminating the names of any Council member unable to fill the role of an Usher.

Worship & Music: Former Council member Kathy Meller sent the Council a detailed report of the committee's February 6th meeting. Attending that meeting were Pastor Viles, Erika Gerth, Abbie Linsenbardt, Kathryn Linsenbardt, Kathy Meller, and Frank Pascoe. Absent from the Worship & Music meeting were Carol Elliott and Johanna Koestner. Members shared comments from parishioners regarding the installation of screens in the sanctuary. Positive and negative comments were heard by the committee members. It was suggested that before the Council move forward with approval of the screens, the idea be again brought before a congregational meeting. It was hoped that details of location, size, etc. will be fully explained to the congregation. A meeting scheduled on February 18, after Sunday service, will explain the duties and responsibilities of the expanded Altar Guild. The early Sunrise Easter Service of March 31st was discussed. It will be held at St. Paul's at 6:30 a.m. and Pastor David will plan and lead the service. St. Paul's choir will participate with choirs from Trinity Lutheran of Russellville and the Russellville First Methodist Church. It is hoped this Committee will work with the Evangelism Committee to prepare the meal. Ash Wednesday will fall on February 14th at 6:30 p.m. Imposition of ashes and the Eucharist will be observed. Mid-Week Lenten Services will be on Wednesday evenings on February 21st, 28th, March 6th, 13th, and 20th. Holden Evening Prayer will be used on those dates. Special music from the songbook Borning Cry vol. 1 will be used by our choir during February. Traditional hymns will be heard in March. A procession into the sanctuary will take place on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Kathryn Linsenbardt will purchase the palms. Worship & Music will meet again on March 5th at 9:00 a.m.

**Church Improvement:** Kent Nelson was traveling this day, but much appreciation was expressed concerning his oversight of the new carpet installation. The installation will continue for some time.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Stacy Bubach reported that offering envelopes have been ordered for next year. No other Stewardship activities were reported during the past month.

**Mutual Ministry:** Chair Jana Thompson reported that her committee met on Wednesday, January 17th. Four members were present. The Committee was well pleased with the Jan. 8th Fellowship event. They discussed the number of new Church Council members who were needed. The committee was pleased with the Safety & Security presentation by Gary Moore. The newly expanded Altar Guild was discussed. Jana reported that the various background checks have been completed on all parishioners working with children and youth. The Committee's new members are Roger Pennell and Debbie Boyce. The Committee's next meeting will be February 22d at 5:30 p.m.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** President Finch raised the issue of the need for two additional Church Council members. She asked us all to try and encourage the needed parishioners to join our ranks. We briefly discussed the possibility of reducing Council terms of service from three-year terms to two years only, in hopes more parishioners would be available. This will be discussed more at future meetings. We will hope to do sufficient advance planning this year for the July 4th festivities which will take place Sunday evening of June 30th.

Pastor Viles relayed a request to the Council to consider dropping the Church's Lohman Post Office Box. After brief discussion it was generally agreed that this would be done, and all future mail will be delivered to 8618 Church Hill Drive.

President Finch called for the adjournment of the Council meeting at 8:12 p.m. This was agreed to by all present. The next Council meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on March 11th.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary

#### **STARS: Jeannette Fischer**

There were 26 STARS in attendance for our February meeting and we enjoyed a wonderful lunch featuring soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts. Our program was What Do You Collect? It was very educational and entertaining as many in our group shared items from their collections and explained how and why they collect. We all learned a great deal. Our next meeting will be March 20 and we are excited to announce that our program will be given by Gary and Alberta Zumwalt who will share information about their activities in geocaching. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 by Monday evening, March 18.

























# **Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch**

For February the weather was great to work the Mobile Food Pantry in Russellville at the Trinity Lutheran parking lot. We served 152 families with 406 people in those families. Some of the items given out were: popcorn, pie crusts, romaine lettuce, oranges, potatoes, bell peppers, eggs, iceberg lettuce, chips, corn, green beans, orange juice, assorted breads, and turkey thighs. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, and from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next mobile food pantry will be March 12th at 1:00 P.M.

**WELCA Lenten Ingathering:** Has been designated to the Samaritan Center. A list of items needed: non-perishable items including: peanut butter, or any canned goods. Hygiene items including bars of soap, combs, hairbrushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Other items that can be donated are gently used bedding or throws, in season clothing and gently used shoes. A box is available in the Narthex to drop off your donations.

## **Children's Sunday School: AJ Ferrell & Wendy Barker**

Sunday School Notifications - In order to join the texting group, please text the number 81010. In the text message body, type @sundayspl You will receive a confirmation text, and AJ or Wendy will then add you to the group. This is a standard texting app. You do **NOT** have to download the app. When AJ or Wendy sends messages, you will receive a text message with their message. If you reply, only AJ or Wendy will see your reply.

## Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

There were 18 in attendance at our February meeting and after we enjoyed a delicious dinner served by Glen and Donita we tackled our chores. All the donated "Souper Bowl" soups were packed and loaded to be taken to the food pantry. Three sets of quilting frames were set up and quilt tops attached to make ready for the upcoming quilt days. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 11. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Jeannette at 782-4594 by Sunday evening, March 10.

## **Quilts, Quilts: Jeannette Fischer**

During February we hosted 3 quilt making days with approximately 14 in attendance each day. We were given strength to accomplish all this work thanks to Donita and Misty who provided lunch for us each day. When all the quilts are completed, we will again display them in the sanctuary. Thanks to all who constructed tops, backs, purchased batting and threaded needles. Many people around the world will be warmed and comforted with our quilts.













**Evangelism: Misty Schroeder** – Looking Ahead: The annual Pancake Breakfast will be on Sunday, April 7, 2024! It is being hosted by the Evangelism Committee and will leave you satisfied until a midnight snack. Well if you eat like Pastor David. Mark your calenders, and plan for a great time and a great meal.

## **Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth**

Margaret Circle began its new year with a meeting held at the Church on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. It was a joy to be greeted by our host, Donita Stubinger, who had prepared a festive table of Valentine cookies and hot beverages for our enjoyment. Ruth Stubinger led us in a Bible study which focussed on the power of forgiveness in the lives of many persons in the Bible and the role of forgiveness in our own lives. Thank you letters from Oaks Indian Mission and Heifer International were shared, as well as informational literature from agencies we have supported in the past. The evening's offering will be divided between the Special Learning Center, Patch of Chillicothe (formerly known as Prison Patch), Rape and Abuse Crisis Service and the Samaritan Center. We were encouraged to mark our calendars for two upcoming WELCA events: April 27, 2024 - Spring Gathering at Our Savior's, Jefferson City, and June 1, 2024 Osage Cluster at St. Paul's, Cole Camp. Margaret Circle will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at St. Paul's. Erika Gerth will host and Kay Pascoe will lead us in the study of God's Holy Word. All women and their friends are welcome!

**Bell Choir:** The Children will perform "Do LORD" the first Sunday of March. 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 showing them when to ring.

## **Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger**

Jr. Lutherans met Sunday, February 18, 2024 after church to make Door Hangings for the residents at Primrose Retirement Home. We had 37 show up for a fun filled afternoon. Jenetia Gibler was waiting for our group as we arrived and greeted us with open arms. Jr. Lutherans gave away 31 door hangers to the residents and they were very grateful. On Saturday morning, March 30<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. to dye Easter Eggs. Each child will be given a dozen eggs to take home after they have been decorated. A continential breakfast will be served and calls will be made to make plans for

















#### **Purchase Lilies for Easter:**



If you would like to purchase a Lily for the Easter Season, please contact Kathryn Linsenbardt at 782-4683 to place your order. Please let her know if the lily is in memory or in honor of someone. They are \$10.00 each this year and orders are due by March 24, 2024.

## Daylight saving time:



begins on Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m., but don't wake up at 2 a.m. to change your clocks. You can move your clocks an hour ahead, or "spring forward," just before going to bed on Saturday night.

Yes you are welcome, I'm here to serve. Pastor David

## **Souper Bowl Sunday:**

Thank you everyone for your gracious giving and generosity. This year's Souper (Super) Bowl Sunday gathered 152 cans or boxes of Soup for the hungry. These were taken to the Food Pantry located at Trinity Lutheran Church which is held the second Tuesday of each month. Over the years, the number of people coming for food has risen dramatically, and your gifts are a wonderful resource to help.



#### Calendar of Events and Schedules

**March 3rd,** Sunday: Children's Sunday School after the Children's Sermon.

**March 3rd**, Sunday: Fellowship Hour in the basement.

**March 5th,** Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee will meet in the basement at 9:00 a.m.

**March 6th,** Wednesday: Lenten service 6:30 p.m.

March 11th, Monday: Freundschaft Gruppe in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m.

**March 11th,** Monday: Church Council meeting in Sunday school youth room at 6:00 p.m. **March 12th,** Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.

March 13th, Wednesday: Lenten service 6:30 p.m.

March 19th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.

March 20th, Wednesday: Lenten service 6:30 p.m.

March 20th, Wednesday: STARS meets at 11:30 a.m. with program by Gary and Alberta Zumwalt.

**March 21st,** Thursday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m. **March 26th,** Tuesday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.

March 28th, Thursday: Maundy Thursday service 6:30 p.m. with Communion

March 29th, Friday: Good Friday service 6:30 p.m. followed with Hot Cross Buns.

March 30th, Saturday: Jr. Lutherans will meet downstairs for lunch, and coloring Easter Eggs.

March 31st, Sunday: Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. followed by a breakfast meal.

March 31st, Sunday: Easter service at 9:00 a.m. followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

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

#### **Council Schedule**

Mar. – 03	Kent Nelson
Mar. – 10	Jana Thompson
Mar. – 17	Stacy Bubach
Mar. – 24	Kent Nelson
Mar. – 28	Frank Pascoe
Mar. – 31	Misty Schroeder
Mar 31	Stacy Bubach

#### **Greeters Schedule**

Mar. – 03	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott
Mar. – 10	David Russell	Trish Russell
Mar. – 17	Jason Wood	Jacklyn Wood
Mar. – 24	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Mar. – 28	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott
Mar. – 31	David Russell	Trish Russell
Mar. – 31	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle

## **Song Leader**

Mar. – 03	Dan Tschirgi
Mar. – 10	Dan Tschirgi
Mar. – 17	Kathy Meller
Mar. – 24	Dan Tschirgi
Mar. – 28	Kathy Meller
Mar. – 31	Kathy Meller
Mar. – 31	Kathy Meller

#### **Audio / Video Technician**

Mar. – 03	Roger Pennell
Mar. – 10	Roger Pennell
Mar. – 17	Dan Tschirgi
Mar. – 24	Roger Pennell
Mar. – 28	Dan Tschirgi
Mar. – 31	Dan Tschirgi
Mar 31	Dan Tschirgi

# Acolyte Schedule

Mar. – 03	Lucas Plochberger
Mar. – 10	Mackenzie Linnenbrink
Mar. – 17	Oliver Stoermer
Mar. – 24	Madeline Stubinger
Mar. – 28	Morgan Schroeder
Mar. – 31	Lucas Plochberger
Mar. – 31	Mackenzie Linnenbrink

#### Readers Schedule

Mar. – 03	Harry Thompson
Mar. – 10	Nicole Benne
Mar. – 17	Erika Gerth
<u> Mar. – 24</u>	Marlene Carlson
Mar. – 28	Carol Elliott
Mar. – 31	Ministerial Alliance
Mar 31	Bill Gerth

#### **Organist / Keyboard**

Mar. – 03	Kathy Meller
Mar. – 10	Kathy Meller
Mar. – 17	Zola Finch
Mar. – 24	Zola Finch
Mar. – 28	Zola Finch
Mar. – 31	Zola Finch
Mar. – 31	Zola Finch

#### **Communionware for the Month**

#### Jason & Jackie Wood

**Altar Flowers for the Month** 

**Rosemary Heidbreder** 

#### **Communion Assistants**

Mar. – 10	Jason Plochberger
Mar. – 24	Don Weber
Mar. – 28	Trish Russell
Mar. – 31	Audrey Bunch / Rosemary Heidbreder