

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 68 No. 4

April - 2024

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Pastor's Message

*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." **Genesis 2:15***

God said, "I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination." **Jeremiah 2:7**

The Lord our God, put us on this earth to provide everything we need. He gave us dominion (authority), over every living thing and he instructed us to care for all the earth. But instead we

polluted the land, the seas, the air, and all life he created.

Earth Day was first observed on April 22, 1970, when an estimated 20 million people nationwide attended inaugural events across the United States to raise awareness about environmental protection and conservation. It was promoted by Senator Gaylord Nelson and is considered the precursor to the modern environmental movement in the US. By its 20th anniversary in 1990, over 200 million people across 141 countries had participated in Earth Day celebrations.

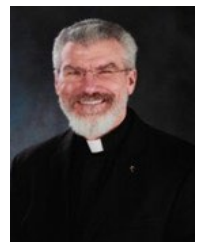
The first Earth Day led to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970 and the passage of major environmental legislation like the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. It continues to be celebrated globally with events and activities aimed at promoting environmental protection and sustainability.

As we approach Earth Day, it's a perfect time to reflect on the significance of this global event and the benefits it brings to our planet and all its inhabitants. Earth Day serves as an annual reminder of our collective responsibility to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

If the world's populations could pull together, many of the problems we have created in this land of milk and honey could be resolved. The ELCA gives us a time in the fall to consider this work with the "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday to do what we can, but it takes more than one organization to repair the damage the world has suffered at our expense.

Be an advocate for God's original plan to be a caretaker for the earth. Be the hands and feet of God, propelled by the Holy Spirit to make a difference. Start in your own community by picking up litter, planting grass and trees and flowers. Each of us can do God's work with our hands.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
MARCH 03	75 / 131	\$ 4,526.00
MARCH 10	104 / 116	\$ 2,514.61
MARCH 17	73 / 128	\$ 1,925.00
MARCH 24	75 / 128	\$ 2,529.00
MARCH 31 Sunrise	61 / 118	Ministerial Alliance
MARCH 31 9 A.M.	170 / 95	\$ 4,520.00

Additional Income:

Epistle Postage	\$ 50.00
Lenten Mid-Week Services	
ELCA Hunger Appeal	\$ 1,530.00
Maundy Thursday	
Coyote Hill	\$ 393.00
Good Friday	
Mid-Mo Foster Care Adoption	\$ 381.00

CONGRATULATIONS MELLER FAMILY

Logan Jean Meller, daughter of Cyrus and Kelsey Meller, was born on Sunday Morning, March 10th, at 10:10 a.m. Proud and excited grandma, Kathy Meller said she is definitely a #10! Kathy was song leader on that Sunday while Cyrus and Kelsey were in Columbia. They sent her a text just as church was over. Kathy and Mark went straight there to see their new and precious granddaughter.



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Shawn & Sherrie Williams 1999 **25 Yrs.**
- 18 Matt & Wendy Barker 2015
- 18 Jerry & Laurie Koestner 1992
- 21 Luke & Miranda England 2018
- 23 Charles & Wanda Ferrell 1982
- 23 Michael & Dana Moeller 1994 **30 Yrs.**
- 25 Doug & Julie Carel 1987
- 28 Melvin & Joan Stubinger 1968



We join our hearts in sympathy with the family of Kathy Meller's mother, Edwina Peterman. She passed away on March 30, 2024. We keep this family in prayer for God's grace to bring them comfort and peace.

Continued prayers for:

The family of Edwina Peterman (mother of Kathy Meller), Debbie Boyce, Don Buchta, Jerry Koestner, Glen Stubinger, Royal & Evelyn Speidel, Donna Viles, Julie Carel, Cecil Knerschild.

NOTE: The P.O. Box 15 is NO Longer in use. Please send all mail to: 8618 Church Hill Dr. Lohman, MO 65053

Congregational Council Meeting, March 11, 2024

† A six o'clock pm regular monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of St. Paul's ELCA was called into session by Council President Zola Finch. Council members present were Kent Nelson, A.J. Ferrell, and Frank Pascoe. Also present were Pastor David Viles, Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe, and Devin Koestner. Council members absent were Stacy Bubach, Jana Thompson, and Misty Schroeder.

† The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor Viles. President Finch requested a motion to approve the Council Minutes of the previous meeting of February 12, 2024. This was done upon a motion offered by A.J. Ferrell, seconded by Kent Nelson, and agreed to via voice vote by all. President Finch announced to the members the agreement by parishioners Devin Koestner and Ashleigh Hillen to accept membership on the Church Council, filling the two currently vacant positions. This was greeted with pleasure by Council members present, and their membership on the Council was agreed to by the current members upon a motion offered by A.J. Ferrell and seconded by Kent Nelson. President Finch requested Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to give the members an update regarding the church's recent expenditures and its general financial status. Treasurer Kay Pascoe circulated a four-page Statement of Financial Position to the members present. The Statement showed St. Paul's total cash and investments to be \$312,170.26 dollars; Dedicated accounts totaled \$34,392.55. The current monthly income for February 2024 was \$12,185.93. The Council members discussed the purchasing a new CD at Farmers Bank of Lohman. Kent Nelson, as Church Improvement chair, expressed concern regarding known and unknown upcoming church expenses. After discussion, it was agreed that the Church Treasurer will purchase a new 9-month CD for \$80,000 at 4.75% with the Farmers Bank of Lohman. The Council briefly discussed the Church Treasurer's replacement. President Finch will advertise the Treasurer's position in appropriate local and area employment sources.

† President Finch requested Pastor David Viles to present his report of past monthly activities. Pastor's report listed a total of 65 miles for visits to parishioners and meetings. This included visits with members Don Buchta and Cecil Knernschild, and with persons planning weddings at St. Paul's. Pastor had numerous phone and personal conversations with our members. His activities included changing the Carillion Bell songs, moving pews with Kent Nelson in the church balcony, preparing Sunday and mid-week bulletins, posting daily Bible verses, and creating and emailing the February Epistle. Pastor presided over six services in February. There were Sunday worship services, as well as Wednesday evening Lenten services. Council Secretary Frank Pascoe moved the Council pay Pastor's mileage of 65 miles at \$43.55. This was seconded by A.J. Ferrell and approved by all.

President Finch requested the Council members committee reports and activities:

Evangelism: Council member and Evangelism Chair Misty Schroeder submitted an e-mailed report which was circulated to all present. Her report detailed the two meetings her committee members held in the past month. Topics of discussion was the upcoming Easter sunrise service at 6:30 on March 31st. and the breakfast following. St. Paul's Evangelism committee will be serving biscuits and gravy, coffee cake, fresh fruit, juice, and coffee. Her committee members will provide breakfast preparations and set-up. The second topic of discussion was the annual pancake breakfast planned for April 7th. Food preparation in our new kitchen may be a bit different but the menu will remain as before, with pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, milk, juice, and coffee. The price will be \$10.00 for each adult. Her committee will welcome any volunteers to assist with preparations and serving of the breakfast. Parishioners should see Misty to assist with this event.

Technology: New Council member Devin Koestner will chair this Committee. Discussion followed concerning the ongoing and re-occurring technical problems with the Church's sound systems, both for in-house and online. Placement of the microphones when the choir sings was

discussed. Since the sound system is not available for the balcony technician, some new use of headphones or other mechanism may be forthcoming to improve the sound technician's control over the sound. It was suggested that Devin Koestner might learn the balcony technician's operations. On the issue of screens in the sanctuary and their placement, an upcoming meeting with Will West, local technician, was to be re-scheduled. Additional installation of security cameras will be addressed.

Safety & Security:

LIABILITY INSURANCE NEEDS: There was extended discussion regarding the need for St. Paul's providing funding for liability insurance for all members of our security team regardless of their being armed when on duty in the church, as current Security Team leadership would like to see liability insurance in place for all Security team members. Pastor and Kent Nelson will pursue this question for further discussion and decisions. President Finch requested Stacy Bubach have Gus Fischer of the Stewardship/Finance committee call Church Mutual Insurance offices to inquire about our obtaining liability insurance for security members in our Congregation. Frank Pascoe suggested that input from other area congregations would be helpful.

Parish Education: Chairperson A. J. Ferrell reported: There will be Sunday School twice monthly beginning in August, with no Sunday School in June. Current attendance is up. Hopefully, there will be a children's Christmas program this coming Christmas. It was suggested that the "Noisy Offerings" be brought back. We could have a children's offering prior to the children's sermon, and the regular offering later in the service. The children would likely enjoy this activity. The possibility of some high school age youth attending this year's upcoming Youth Conference was briefly mentioned. It will be held in New Orleans, July 16-20.

Worship & Music: [former chairperson Kathy Meller had sent Council members a reporting of their March 5th meeting.] Highlights of that meeting were:

Discussion of the Altar Guild meeting of February 18th:. Committee members were happy to see a large number attending, although someone is still needed to step up and become President of the Guild. Marie Scheperle and Kathryn Linsenbardt will continue their duties with Altar Guild with help as needed.

Setting 10 will continue to be used. Committee members will continue to see that wine, apple/grape juice, and communion kits are on hand. Special Services upcoming are Palm Sunday, March 24th. Maundy Thursday, March 28th ; Good Friday, March 29th ; and Easter Sunrise Service, here at St. Paul's, March 31st, at 6:30 am. Pastor David will set up the Flower Cross at the foot of our front steps. Our Easter Sunday morning Service will be at 9:00 am with two communion stations, followed by the traditional Easter Egg hunt for the children.

St. Paul's Choir and the children's Bell Choir will perform a number of times during March and April. April hymns were selected, and the next Worship & Music committee meeting will be April 2d.

Church Improvement: Chair Kent Nelson reported that the carpet installation bill from Sommers Interiors has been paid [\$11,417.28]. He announced that the upcoming Church Workday will begin at 8:00 am on Saturday March 23th. If that day's weather should prevent work, the alternative workday is scheduled for 8:00 am on Saturday March 30th. A new door for the parsonage is to be in place soon. There will soon be attention to the kitchen refrigerator and its occasional freezing and poor performance; also, the issue of smelly kitchen drains will be addressed.

Stewardship & Finance: No report.

Mutual Ministry: No report.

Old Business: None

New Business: Planning for the July 4th activities need to be addressed soon. Will our activities be held on June 30th? Parsonage Rental: There was brief discussion of the possibility of renting the parsonage when President Finch moves into her new home. Various members present expressed concerns and caution on doing this without careful planning and putting extreme financial safeguards in place. No decision was reached.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm upon a motion offered by A.J. Ferrell, seconded by Devin Koestner, and approved by all. Pastor Viles and the members closed with a recitation of the Our Father.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

Our STARS enjoyed a very interesting program about geocaching given by Gary and Alberta Zumwalt on March 20. Using their computer, they showed many locations where caches are hidden, explained how to locate caches by using clues and showed a variety of caches that are used. We all learned a great deal about this hobby. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 17 and we are going to have a change of pace and enjoy a bingo party. Quality prizes will be provided. No "white elephants" allowed. Our menu will feature looooooog sub-sandwiches with a variety of meats and cheeses. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 by Monday, April 15.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The Mobile Food Pantry Truck was in Russellville at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot on March 12th. We served 164 families with 477 people in those families. Had great weather to volunteer outdoors. Some of the items given out were: assorted cereals, bread, assorted drinks, candy, popcorn, produce boxes containing apples, lettuce, onions, pears, pineapples, potatoes, sweet potatoes. 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. Next Mobile will be April 9th at 1:00 P.M.

WELCA Lenten Ingathering: Collected 151 pounds of food and 21 pounds of hygiene items. Several bags of miscellaneous shoes, clothes and bedding. Thanks to all that donated the supplies. Rosemary and Audrey delivered to the Samaritan Center.

WOMEN of the ELCA: Donita Stubinger

Two exciting events are coming up soon. Mark your calendars so you won't miss out!

April 27, 2024 - **Spring Gathering** - Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Jefferson City - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

June 1, 2024 - **1st Annual OZARK CLUSTER Meeting** - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cole Camp, MO. 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Both events will include morning refreshments, devotions, a Bible Study, singing, speakers, and a delicious lunch. The 1st annual Ozark Cluster meeting will provide information about the reorganization of Central States WELCA and how it affects our local units. Each event offers the opportunity to make new friends. Registration details to follow!

Children's Sunday School: AJ Ferrell & Wendy Barker

There will be Sunday School twice monthly beginning in August, with no Sunday School in June. Current attendance is up and all the kids are enjoying Sunday school, and so are the teachers.

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

There were 15 in attendance at our March meeting and we enjoyed an fantastic corned beef and cabbage dinner prepared by Donita and Glen. Our chores included defrosting and cleaning the small upstairs refrigerator, sharpening the pew pencils, cleaning all the chairs in the Friendship Hall and various other tasks. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 8 and that will be our last meeting until September. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Jeannette at 782-4594 by Sunday evening, April 7.

SAVE THE DATE

**Russellville/Lohman Fire Protection
District Auxilliary**



**Saturday, May 18, 2024
Eagle Stop @
Intersection of C & D Highway
Lohman, MO**

Serving starts at 10:00 a.m.

■ Brats ■ Pork Steak ■ Pulled Pork ■

Dinner includes two sides and drink.
Sides: potato salad, baked beans, chips



Thank you for your support!



St. Paul's
All you
care to eat

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

April 7, 2024
Serving from
10 am to 1 pm

**Pancakes
Scrambled Eggs
Sausage
Applesauce
Coffee
Milk
Orange Juice**

Adults \$10.00
Kids 6-12 \$5.00
Kids under 5 years Free

Hosted by the Evangelism Committee

Evangelism: Misty Schroeder – 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 mid-night snack. Mark your calenders, and plan for a great time and a great meal.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Spring has sprung and it is time for Margaret Circle's April meeting! We look forward to lively fellowship, Bible study, updates on WELCA activities and so much more! Join us at St. Paul's at 6:30 PM on April 2nd in the church's lower level where Kay Pascoe will lead the study of God's Holy Word and Erika Gerth will provide refreshments. We say it frequently and with all sincerity: all women of St. Paul's and their friends are welcome!

Bell Choir: The Children will perform "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today" the first Sunday of April. 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.



Maintenance and Grounds: Kent Nelson: Spring Clean-up began with a very cool morning on March 23rd and ended with warmer temperatures and a beautiful job making the area look great for Easter. There was also a fabulous breakfast scrambled eggs and Biscuits and gravy. Thank you everyone for howing up and working hard. Even Pastor David showed up to help (eat breakfast).



Annual Fish Fry will be held on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at the Lohman Community Building located at 8910 Lincoln St, Lohman, MO. It begins at 4:00 pm and ends at 6:00 pm or when the fish is gone. \$13.00 for Adults, \$7:00 for children 6 to 12 years old, 5 and under free.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger

On Saturday, March 20 the Jr. Lutherans and the Youth Group met in the Friendship Hall where thirty-five young and ageless kids showed up to dye Easter eggs. The youngest being newborns, Dash Heidbreder and Steven Dunlap, keeping everybody's attention. We had twenty dozen eggs to make beautiful and that's what they did. Special effects were made with the swirl of a little machine that made lines, which the Farrell's brought. They also used baking soda and vinegar for some amazing effects.

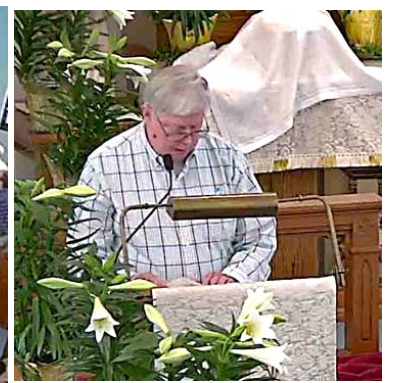


We all enjoyed the continental breakfast during our fellowship hour. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and helpers that helped in any way to see our project completed. We welcomed a visitor, Debbie Berry. We invite everyone to us on Sunday, April 7 when we will be helping at St. Paul's annual Pancake & Sausage breakfast. We won't have a meeting in May or June to give us time to complete school, vacations and to celebrate just being out of school. However, on Sunday, June 30 we will celebrate the 4th of July with our famous cinnamon rolls. Then in the afternoon and evening please come to the celebration and support the food stand we will be working at. We are planning to take a trip to Herman, Missouri on the train sometime in August before school starts again. Watch for more details to come later.

Easter Services:

This year St. Paul's was honored and pleased to host the annual Sunrise Community Service in addition to our regular 9:00 am service. We had an attendance of 61 during the Sunrise service and 170 during the regular service. The Sunrise service had a scrumptious breakfast and the 9 am service was followed by an Easter egg hunt with over 700 packed eggs.

Thank you to the St. Paul's Choir who did a fabulous job singing 'Lord Where Shall We Go?' Thanks also to Pastor Ed Merckel from Trinity Lutheran Church, and Pastor Karen Jones from the Russellville United Methodist Church, for helping with the service.



Calendar of Events and Schedules

- April 2nd**, Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee select songs by email.
April 2nd, Tuesday: Margaret Circle will meet in the basement at 6:30 p.m.
April 7th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School after the Children's Sermon.
April 7th, Sunday: Pancake Breakfast in the basement beginning at 10:00 am, depending on sermon length
April 8th, Monday: Freundschaft Gruppe in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m.
April 8th, Monday: Church Council meeting in Sunday school youth room at 6:00 p.m.
April 9th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.
April 14th, Sunday: Baptism of Dash Richard Heidbreder, son of Ryan & Ashley Heidbreder.
April 14th, Sunday: Basement reserved for a wedding shower.
April 14th, Sunday: Fish Fry at the Lohman Community Building 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
April 16th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.
April 17th, Wednesday: STARS meets at 11:30 a.m. BINGO, prizes and fun.
April 17th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
April 21st, Sunday: Baptism of Steven Loki Dunlap, son of Kaylin and Steven Dunlap.
April 21st, Sunday: Baptism of Huxton Rhett Rhodes, son of Abby and Dawson Rhodes.
April 26th, Friday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
April 27th, Saturday: WELCA Spring Gathering - Our Savior's Lutheran Church 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays.

Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

Council Schedule

Apr. - 07	AJ Ferrell
Apr. - 14	Kent Nelson
Apr. - 21	Frank Pascoe
Apr. - 28	Jana Thompson

Acolyte Schedule

Apr. - 07	Madeline Stubinger
Apr. - 14	Oliver Stoermer
Apr. - 21	Morgan Schroeder
Apr. - 28	Lucas Plochberger

Greeters Schedule

Apr. - 07	Jason Wood	Jacklyn Wood
Apr. - 14	Richard Heidbreder	Rosemary Heidbreder
Apr. - 21	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Apr. - 28	Gary Elliott	Audrey Bunch

Readers Schedule

Apr. - 07	Frank Pascoe
Apr. - 14	Donald Weber
Apr. - 21	Trish Russell
Apr. - 28	Marie Schepeler

Song Leader

Apr. - 07	Kathy Meller
Apr. - 14	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 21	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 28	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

Apr. - 07	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 14	Roger Pennell
Apr. - 21	Roger Pennell
Apr. - 28	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

Apr. - 07	Zola Finch
Apr. - 14	Zola Finch
Apr. - 21	Zola Finch
Apr. - 28	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Audrey Bunch & Rosemary Heidbreder

Communion Assistants

Apr. - 14	Devin Koestner
Apr. - 28	Jacklyn Wood

Altar Flowers for the Month

Kathryn Linsenbardt

* Communion Days noted in Yellow