

EPIS⁺LE



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

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July - 2024

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Pastor's Message

***It's Summer, No School, Work Vacations.
What will I do with all this time off?***

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:16-17

Summer vacations can be a wonderful time to grow closer to God and deepen your faith. You have more time and space to focus on your relationship with the Lord. Here are some suggestions to walk with God during the summer months:

Spend time in Scripture. With more free time, you can dive deeper into God's word. Set aside time each day to read the Bible, meditate on a passage, and journal about what you are learning. As you immerse yourself in Scripture, ask God to speak to you and reveal more of Himself.

Create a consistent prayer life. Summer is a great opportunity to form a habit of daily prayer. Find a quiet place, like your backyard, a park, or your own home, and spend time in conversation with God. Bring Him your worries, fears, and hopes, and remember to listen for His voice. Your heart will fill with his joy.

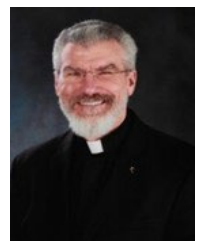
Even if our regular church schedule looks different in the summer, look for ways to stay plugged into a community of believers. Surround yourself with other Christians who can provide encouragement, accountability, and opportunities for fellowship. If you are away from Lohman, spend time with your St. Paul's family online, watching the service on Facebook.

Spend time in nature. Summer provides a beautiful backdrop to appreciating God's creation. Take a hike, go for a swim, or simply sit outside and marvel at the wonders of the natural world. As you do so, reflect on God's power, creativity, and care for you.

Serve others. Summer can be a great time to get involved in volunteer work or find ways to bless your community. Look for opportunities to serve at a local food bank, nursing home, or children's program like VBS. As you give of your time and resources, you'll not only be making a difference in others' lives, but also deepening your own walk with Christ.

The key to walking with God during the summer is to be intentional about making Him the central focus of your time off. Seek to do all things for the glory of God. You will find that your faith is strengthened, and your relationship with the Lord grows deeper.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Angela Tierney
2	Kaylin Dunlap
2	Christopher Murphy
5	Vanessa Soell
5	George England
8	Gus Fischer
10	Sherry Williams
11	Joshua Ferrell
12	Ashleigh Hillen
12	Carol Heidbreder
15	Sherman Koestner
16	Philip Scott Soell
16	Wayne Linsenbardt
17	Jonathan Kalaf
17	Shawn Williams
20	Remington Ferrell
20	Charlie Mae Ferrell
21	Laney Hager
21	Jessica Stoermer
24	Debbie Boyce
24	Colin Woehrer
26	Emma Steele
27	Angela Stubinger
27	Stacy McNamar
31	Tyler Hager
31	Lyndli Thompson



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

2	Stacy & Chris McNamar	2022	
13	Kara & Andrew Richart	2019	5 Yrs
18	Craig and Angie Stubinger	1998	
23	Rich and Gina Prosch	1988	
27	Harry & Jana Thompson	1974	50 Yrs
29	John and Dee Dee Loesch	1978	

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
JUNE 02	98 / 354	\$ 3,242.00
JUNE 09	63 / 183	\$ 2,546.86
JUNE 16	85 / 167	\$ 2,376.00
JUNE 23	80 / 163	\$ 2,919.00
JUNE 30	78 / 232	\$ 2,367.00

Additional Income

Patricia Collins Memorials:

Children's Bell Music - \$50.00

Sanctuary Screens - \$100.00



Once again, we are so thankful for Marvin Bubach mowing the hill. This time getting it ready for all the 4th of July parking and Fireworks display.

4th of July Celebration Helping Hands

Thank you to everyone who staked the drive up the hill, stretched rope and caution tape, put up signs, and directed the flow of cars into parking places and kept the children and people safe. You were all awesome and this event could not have happened without you.

Thank you Trish Russell for decorating the church property with all the beautiful 4th of July, RED, WHITE, AND BLUE flowers and other decorations. It all looked great.

Continued prayers for:

The family Robert Reuter, Debbie Berry, Ellen Strobel, Jerry Koestner, Richard Heidbreder, Don Buchta, Royal & Evelyn Speidel, Donna Viles, Julie Carel, Cecil Knernschild, Pastor's friend Linda Huff, and all those we hold dear in our hearts..

Congregational Council Meeting, June 10, 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 A.J. Ferrell, Stacy Bubach, Jana Thompson, Misty Schroeder, and Frank Pascoe. Absent were Kent Nelson, Devin Koestner and Ashleigh Hillen. Also attending were Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe and Pastor David Viles.

† The meeting opened with a prayer and devotion by Pastor Viles. His devotion focused on "when is enough, enough". Since God's grace is never ending, our best efforts should be focused on extending grace, patience and compassion.

† President Finch called for a motion to approve the minutes of last month's Council meeting. This was done upon a motion by Misty Schroeder, seconded by A.J. Ferrell, and agreed to by all. President Finch requested Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe to present a summary of the Church's financial status. The Treasurer distributed a four-page summary of expenses, and current financial position. The year-to-date balance of all accounts totaled \$300,011.29 dollars, with total dedicated accounts at \$34,392.55. May 2024 income totaled \$12,610.58; expenses totaled \$12,989.02, leaving a monthly deficit of \$(378.44). The Treasurer had concerns about checks written to the Russellville Public School Dist. in January, which have not been cashed. It was agreed that the Treasurer would ask the bank to stop payment on them. The Treasurer's report was accepted upon a motion offered by Misty Schroeder, seconded by Jana Thompson, and agreed to by all.

† The President requested that Pastor David Viles present his monthly summary of activities. Pastor reported minimal mileage for May 2024, and requested no mileage compensation. He reported on six church and community meetings involving the Lohman Lion's Club, Lohman City Council, S.T.A.R.S., and Mutual Ministry. May activities included numerous personal meetings with parishioners, wedding planning, funeral detailing, and prayers with others in the wider community. Pastor attended a four-hour CPR class held in the Church along with parishioners Roger Pennell, Melvin Stubinger, and Gary Elliott. Pastor created and emailed the May Epistle and updated the Church's website with bulletin and video services. He presided over two Communion Sunday worship services in-person, and two non-Communion Sunday services, with online and Facebook presentations. President Finch requested Council approval of Pastor's monthly report, which was done upon a motion offered by Misty Schroeder, seconded by Stacy Bubach, and agreed to by all.

President Finch requested Council Chairpersons to report on May 2024 activities:

Evangelism: Chairperson Misty Schroeder discussed ongoing planning for the annual 4th of July celebration which will be held on Sunday June 30th. There is still work to be done on assembling a complete work team for the various activities. Misty will meet with Roger Pennell and others to make certain that the parking and safety arrangements are made. There is a need for a detailed list of all the days' activities. Questions were raised about MO DOT phasing out "Adopt-a-Highway program and its signs". Pastor will decide when and how to preserve St. Paul's signs along Route D. Misty reported that planning for a Spaghetti Supper is on hold.

Technology: President Finch led the technology discussion. There was extended commentary and comments from the congregation on Devin Koestner's display of the cardboard examples of how the permanent screens will look and be displayed. Council members seemed to be mostly successful in allaying the concerns of parishioners who had questions about the location and display of the screens. President Finch presented to the Council members present some privacy concerns about St. Paul's live streaming of various Sunday activities, including the Children's Sermons and baptism celebrations. Council members agreed that our technicians directing live-streaming online would divert the cameras on these occasions as needed. The Church may also on some occasions re-arrange how our children's activities are arranged when live-streamed and gathered in front of the congregation on a Sunday.

Worship & Music: There was no committee meeting in May, but the members selected July hymns via email; the Choir will be taking a break during July Sunday services. A number of parishioners and Council members expressed pleasure at the choice of Setting 8 continuing to be used through August.

Parish Education: Chairperson A.J. Ferrell reported her hope that a good number of our children and Youth will plan to attend this year's Vacation Bible School. There is \$500 in the budget to support Vacation Bible School. We had around ten students attending last year, and the hope is that we will have this many or more attending this year. Our own Sunday School will begin again starting on Sunday July 7th.

Church Improvement: It was reported that our request to Ameren to assist in cutting some tree branches around the church property was declined. Temperature settings within the church basement and sanctuary were briefly discussed, as some parishioners have commented on some Sunday services with uncomfortable sanctuary temperatures. Council members on duty each Sunday should check the temperature settings and adjust as needed. We do encourage parishioners who find themselves in uncomfortable situations to dress warmly in the air-conditioned sanctuary.

Stewardship & Finance: Chairperson Stacy Bubach reported no Committee meeting but did report on her contact with a parishioner who has expressed interest in becoming Church Treasurer with the upcoming departure of Kay Pascoe, who has filled this position in recent years. The present Treasurer has filled the position without compensation. The Council briefly discussed an appropriate salary range for a new Church Treasurer.

Mutual Ministry: Chairperson Jana Thompson's Committee met on May 15th. All members were present including new member Mitch Plochberger. Discussion followed about the necessary planning for the upcoming Sunday June 30th activities. Roger Pennell spoke about the safety and security planning and offered to meet with Misty Schroeder to make sure that necessary actions will be taken as several members who usually do these safety measures will not be present this year. Discussion also focused on the planning and installation of the screens and the committee's concerns that the congregation be fully aware of what is to take place. Tree removal was briefly discussed. Pastor Viles discussed his ongoing work on a "Safety & Security Policy". It was hoped that the church's "Blessing Box" could be put to some desirable function soon. It was discussed that it might be turned into a "Book Offering Box", and periodically filled with books for all ages, perhaps on a "bring one, take one" basis. Other Council members present at tonight's Council meeting thought this an excellent idea. This suggestion will be discussed more soon. The Mutual Ministry Committee will meet again on June 19th.

Old Business: President Finch briefly informed the Council members that the Safety & Security Committee is currently inactive. Council member Stacy Bubach asked the Council to consider the ushers' difficulty each Sunday of gathering the offering from those attending. She and several other members spoke about how widely spaced the congregation sits, and the difficulty this creates for passing the offering plate along the pew. One option would be to collect each attendee's contribution as each enters the church; if this were done, one usher could present it at the proper time during the service. Other options were heard concerning the gathering of each Sunday's offering. No decision was made at this meeting.

New Business: Pastor Viles called the Council members' attention to the fact that this year 2024 is the 100th anniversary of the construction of our present building that is St. Paul's Church. It was built in 1924! How do we plan to celebrate? After much discussion, a date of Sunday October 27th was decided upon. There were numerous suggestions and Pastor Viles will present our decision to celebrate on October 27th to the congregation. A committee for planning the festivities will be necessary, which will come about in the near future. Volunteers are needed and it is hoped that present day descendants of our founding fathers will be core members of the committee. President Finch announced that our July Council meeting on July 8th will be via internet participation.

At 8:06 the President called for adjournment of the meeting, which was accomplished by Kent Nelson's motion, seconded by Misty Schroeder, and agreed to by all. A motion to adjourn was offered by A.J. Ferrell, seconded by Jana Thompson. President Finch declared the meeting over at 7:55 pm. A recitation of the Our Father was led by Pastor Viles.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer: There were 28 STARS in attendance at our June meeting and we enjoyed sharing wedding pictures and short stories about our weddings. As we looked at the pictures, we decided we had hardly changed at all.



Our July meeting is going to be very informative and timely for this season as we learn about tick borne diseases. Who hasn't come into contact with these tiny, aggressive creatures and suffered the consequences of such an encounter? Ticks are very common in our area and are the cause of a number of illnesses such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis, and more recently, Alpha-gal Syndrome. Molly Baker, Lead Zoonotic Epidemiologist at the Missouri Health Department, will be the presenter at STARS on Wednesday, July 17. She will explain in detail how to protect ourselves from ticks and serious diseases attributed to them. Invite your friends to attend and be informed. Lunch will be delicious as always. Please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 or 694-3634 by Monday evening July 15.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The Mobile Food Truck was held June 11th in Russellville at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot. We served 141 families with 364 people in those families. Some of the items served were apples, bread, carrots, celery, cereal, corn, granola bars, green beans, kiwi, potatoes, raspberries, sweet potatoes, and turkey thighs. Thanks to the volunteers, from Lohman Lions Club was Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's was Meredith Benne, Rosemary Heidbreder, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile July 9th at 1:00 P.M.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger:

Our 4th of July celebration on Sunday, June 30th, was a great success. We began with our annual patriotic worship service followed by fellowship downstairs with big, delicious cinnamon rolls and lots of fruit. Thank you to everyone who made the morning events go so well. Our next preparation was to get ready for the evening meal. Thank you to Glen Stubinger and Mark Meller for grilling the hot dogs, to everyone who baked pies, brownies, cookies, and cream puffs. A special thank you to Misty Schroeder for the Italian Ice, and organizing the many details that helped make this event come together. A total figure for the profit will be reported in the next Epistle.

The Jr. Lutherans are making plans to go on a train ride to Herman, MO. More details will be posted on this activity as we get closer to the event.

Children's Sunday School: AJ Ferrell & Wendy Barker: Will begin Sunday School again on July 7th. Then in August they will begin having Children's Sunday school twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays which are non-Communion.

Vacation Bible School: Begins Sunday, July 7, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville. This is always a lot of fun and a great way for children and adults to enjoy dancing, games, and fun ways to hear about the Word while SCUBA diving into friendship with God.



WELCA Osage Cluster Meeting: Audrey Bunch

The WELCA Osage Cluster meeting was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cole Camp on Saturday June 1st, 2024. Donita Stubinger, Marie Scheperle, Kathryn Linsenbardt and Audrey Bunch were able to attend.

A total of 41 women from the Osage Cluster were in attendance.



First we had registration and refreshments provided by the host church along with visiting with several WELCA members. The meeting was called to order followed by prayer. All enjoyed singing several familiar songs - Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Calling, Shine Jesus Shine, I Love to Tell the Story, Lift High the Cross and others. We watched a short skit video "The Love Song" and had a short discussion. Our Bible Study was held by Pastor Sandy Schelesselman. Retired from St. Paul's Lutheran in Cole Camp, she led the group in several Bible readings "JUST LOVE". One of the questions she asked "When you think of LOVE, what comes to mind?" We enjoyed listening to her describing the Greek vocabulary.

God's divine love, highest of loves, perfect, unconditional sacrificial and pure. Marie Scheperle helped with the offering, 1/2 goes to the Women of the ELCA, churchwide and 1/2 goes to the Educational Scholarship Fund. Gloria Sharp, President of Central States Women of the ELCA and Janice Gerken, Treasurer reported on the Synod News. St. Paul's Women of the ELCA in Cole Camp served lunch and desserts. All were able to visit with lunch then time for the afternoon session. We watched another short skit video "If You Give a Little Love." Our key note speaker Pastor Katherine Hayes-Wallenburg from Springfield, MO talked about "Spiritual Direction." We learned to listen, have quiet time and be a good soul friend. We closed with the "Holden Evening Prayer."

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

The study of God's Holy Word, fellowship around a table laden with delicious and nourishing salads, brownies for dessert, sharing financial resources in the name of Jesus to bring healing of body and mind to those in need: such was the agenda for Margaret Circle's meeting held on June 4, 2024 at the home of Kay Pascoe. Eight of the Circle's eleven members were in attendance. Ruth Stubinger led the Bible study about the importance of each person's mind. She offered many Biblical references regarding ways our minds can be strengthened, calmed, renewed and even healed. In summary, when we are fed with the Word of God, peace, comfort and happiness are likely to follow! Thank you, Ruth, for these encouraging words. Letters of appreciation for Margaret Circle's recent donations to Rape and Abuse Crisis Service, Russellville Elementary School and Mobility Worldwide were shared. The evening's offering was divided between Oaks Indian Ministry, located in Oaks, Oklahoma, as well as Jefferson City's Salvation Army. Both agencies offer shelter, food, clothing and so much more to those in need. We are excited to host Fellowship, in partnership with Rose Strobel, following worship on Sunday, August 4th. Join us for good food and lively conversation! Margaret Circle welcomes all women, regardless of age, to its meetings. If you like what you read in these articles and want to be a part of this ministry, plan to attend the Circle's next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM, right here at St. Paul's!

St. Pauls Choir:

During June we all enjoyed our choir singing the Psalms during the readings. This was something new and they did a great job. Pictured here is the choir singing "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" during the Patroitic service on June 30th. Zola played the keyboard and they were joined by Zola's sister Zella for this outstanding performance.



St. Paul's Children's Bell Choir: The children played "God Bless America" and did fabulous.



Patrotic Service and 4th of July Celebration:



Our morning service began with our St. Paul's veterans coming forward to place a flag into a sand filled container and being recognized for their service. The congregation joined our veterans in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's flag. Then Pastor David prayed a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving for our past, present, and future military personnel who have served to maintain the freedom of our Nation.

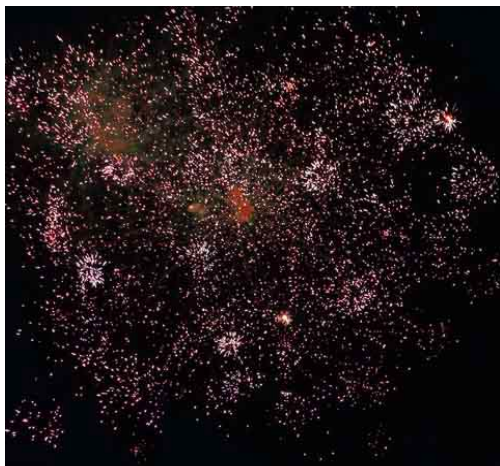
Pictured left to right starting in the back row: Jerry Koestner, Bill Gerth, Donald Weber, Glen Stubinger, Gary Elliott, Leroy Plochberger, and Mike Kalaf. Front row: Melvin Stubinger and Marvin Bubach.

Food and Fire Works:

Beginning at 6:00 pm the cars started rolling into the parking lot where they were directed to the parking areas on the grassy hill. The weather was fantastic with nice temperatures and mostly cloudy skies. Pastor David brought his newly purchased Karaoke speaker system and a playlist of patriotic music. Pastor also acted as the MC delivering messages from the food galley and other announcements. We had a blast with a nice big crowd and lots of kids running around.

Enjoy a few photos of the evening.





Calendar of Events and Schedules

July 2nd, Tuesday: Worship and Music Committee will not meet in person. Select hymns by email.
July 7th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School
July 8th, Monday: Church Council meeting in Sunday school youth room at 6:00 p.m.
July 9th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.
July 16th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.
July 17th, Wednesday: S.T.A.R.S. will gather at 11:30 a.m. Presentation on ticks and other nasty critters
July 17th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
July 26th, Friday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
July 28th, Sunday: Howard Woehrer Basement Rental

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

Council Schedule

July – 07	Kent Nelson
July – 14	Frank Pascoe
July – 21	Jana Thompson
July – 28	Misty Schroeder

Acolyte Schedule

July – 07	Lucas Plochberger
July – 14	Oliver Stoermer
July – 21	Madeline Stubinger
July – 28	Morgan Schroeder

Greeters Schedule

July – 07	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle
July – 14	Jason Wood	Jacklyn Wood
July – 21	Rosemary Heidbreder	Richard Heidbreder
July – 28	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson

Readers Schedule

July – 07	Donald Weber
July – 14	Jerry Koestner
July – 21	Frank Pascoe
July – 28	Marie Scheperle

Song Leader

July – 07	Dan Tschirgi
July – 14	Kathy Meller
July – 21	Dan Tschirgi
July – 28	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

July – 07	Roger Pennell
July – 14	Dan Tschirgi
July – 21	Roger Pennell
July – 28	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

July – 07	Zola Finch
July – 14	Zola Finch
July – 21	Zola Finch
July – 28	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Marie Scheperle and Carol Elliott

Communion Assistants

July – 14	Devin Koestner
July – 28	Jahanna Koestner

Altar Flowers for the Month

Julie Nelson

*** Communion Days noted in Yellow**