

EPIS⁺LE



St. Paul's Lutheran The Church On The Hill

Volume 68 No. 11

November - 2024

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Address: 8618 Church Hill Dr.
Lohman, MO 65053

Pastor: Rev. David Viles
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<http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org>

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<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

Pastor's Message

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

In the darkest hours of my life, when the shadows of grief threatened to engulf me, I found comfort within the very congregation I had sworn to guide and protect. As your pastor, I saw my role as one of strength, a light of hope for those navigating life's turbulent waters. Yet, when my beloved Donna entered hospice, and soon after died, I found myself adrift,

wrestling with a pain so profound it threatened to shatter heart.

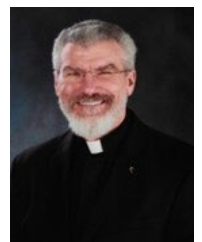
It was in this moment of vulnerability that I witnessed the true power of our church community. The flock I had tended for years transformed into a host of angels, your wings of compassion surrounding me in a warmth I had never known possible. Every day brought new acts of kindness – meals delivered to my door, ensuring I was nourished even when grief stole my appetite. My neighbor mowing my lawn, and many offerings of help from others. In the stillness, when loneliness threatened to consume me, my phone would light up with messages of encouragement and prayers. Cards filled my mailbox. When I returned to Sunday services, I was welcomed with a shared journey of healing. As I stood at the pulpit, my voice sometimes faltering, the congregation's eyes met mine with understanding and love. You didn't expect perfection; you simply offered your presence, your silent support speaking volumes louder than any sermon I could deliver.

Your words were a comfort to my breaking heart. As the initial shock of loss became a quieter grief, the congregation continued to stand by me. My solitude was respected when the need arose, yet I knew I wasn't alone. Now two months later, my heart surges with gratitude. In my darkest hour, my congregation became the light, expressing the very essence of Christian love and community that I had always preached about. You have taught me the profound truth that even shepherds sometimes need tending, and in doing so, you have not only restored my faith but deepened it immeasurably.

To my beloved St. Paul's congregation, I offer my deepest thanks.

You have been the hands and feet of Christ, and through your love, I have experienced the healing power of true Christian fellowship.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cyrus Meller
- 3 Sharon Wyss
- 4 Mackenzie Linnenbrink
- 5 Glenda Hake
- 6 Bonnie Britt
- 7 Audrey Bunch
- 7 Jim Loesch
- 8 Samuel Stubinger
- 8 Trenton Thompson
- 10 Christine Pistel
- 11 Gary Bunch
- 12 Shawn Stoermer
- 14 Jean Fink
- 14 Pastor Ed Merckel
- 15 Megan Ferrell
- 15 Makayla Enowski
- 18 Madeline Stubinger
- 22 Frederica Fischer
- 23 Max Neenan
- 24 Charlie Miller
- 24 Avery Tschirgi
- 25 Wyatt Prosch
- 27 Sarah Gordon
- 28 Emmett Loesch
- 28 Carol Merckel
- 29 Patty Duncan
- 30 Garrett Wykes
- 30 Roy Fluegel

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
OCTOBER 06	74 / 250	\$ 4,383.00
OCTOBER 13	70 / 214	\$ 3,971.86
OCTOBER 20	71 / 153	\$ 1,245.25
OCTOBER 27	105 / 139	\$ 2,857.00

Additional Income:

Mission Envelope for Hurricanes	\$820.00 To Date
Reformation for Samaritan Center	\$605.00 To Date
Thanks for Special Gift	\$2,000.00

Celebrating 100 years of Worship in our current Church Building



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------|
| 3 | Todd & Julie Walters | 1996 |
| 11 | Jason & Jamie Plochberger | 2000 |
| 12 | Michael & Darla Linhardt | 2011 |
| 12 | Timothy & Heather Morgans | 2016 |
| 15 | Roger & Nancy Thompson | 1969 |
| 19 | Ryan & Ashley Heidbreder | 2016 |
| 24 | Bob & Christie Murphy | 2001 |
| 27 | Henry & Barbara Carrel | 1982 |
| 29 | Debbie & Doug Raithe | 1975 |

55 YRS.

Continued prayers for:

Debbie Boyce, Patty Ott, Cynthia Forck, Jerry Koestner, Richard Heidbreder, Don Buchta, Julie Carel, the family of Larry Wunderlich, family of Donna Viles, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

Congregational Council Meeting, October 14, 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, Jana Thompson, Misty Schroeder, and Ashleigh Hillen. Council members absent were A.J. Ferrell, Stacy Bubach, Frank Pascoe and Devin Koestner. Also present were Pastor David Viles and Church Treasurer Michelle Collins.

† The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Viles. President Finch requested approval of the previous Council minutes. This was accomplished upon a motion by Kent Nelson, seconded by Jana Thompson, and agreed to by all.

† **Church Treasurer:** Church Treasurer Michelle distributed a summary of Church expenses and income. Her report was approved upon a motion by Misty Schroeder, seconded by Kent Nelson and approved by all.

† **President Finch:** requested that Pastor Viles present his report.

† **Pastor Viles:** Pastor announced that he would no longer request his mileage be reimbursed. His report listed five meetings, including one with staff of Trimble Funeral Home, one with Church Council, Fruendschaft Gruppe, S.T.A.R.S., and Worship & Music. Pastor Viles detailed seven meetings and dinners with various Church members, and numerous phone and personal visits and prayers with congregational members. His activities included a wedding rehearsal and wedding for Justin Campbell and Brenna Aulbur, and the cremation service for Donna Viles at Trimble Funeral Home. Pastor supplied the printed hymns for Sunday bulletins, updated St. Paul's website, and created the Sept/Oct Epistle. Pastor presided over one Communion Sunday in person, and three non-communion services online with Facebook, with three Lay Leaders officiating. Pastor Viles reported on the inactivity of the area Ministerial Alliance, which was originally ten churches but no longer has activities planned. St. Paul's will no longer participate.

President Finch: requested reports from Committee Chairpersons:

Evangelism: Misty Schroeder reported that an upcoming committee meeting will discuss the recent Chili Supper's results and income. Preliminary results indicate an increase in funds raised over last year. This may have been due to increased donations this year. Her committee will work on streamlining the tasks of workers and improving their schedules. Misty's Committee is working with Debbie Boyce on the 100-year Celebration and its ongoing planning. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for those who are bringing potluck dishes to this event. Misty reported that the train ride to Hermann, Mo. was very successful.

Technology: There is no update on screens for the sanctuary. Discussion concluded that the cameras working during the Sunday children's sermon will be diverted away from the children's faces for security reasons. It was announced that Council member Devin Koestner has resigned from Church Council. A new Technology Chairman will be needed.

Worship & Music: Chair Ashleigh Hillen reported on the Oct. 1st meeting of this committee. Five members were in attendance. The church will be decorated on Nov. 16th for the Thanksgiving Sunday service. Kathryn Linsenbardt will get roses for All Saints Sunday. The Bell Choir will perform on Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 24th. VBS music will be played in the future at an appropriate time during the Sunday service. The choir will perform on the following Sundays: Nov. 3d; Nov. 10th; and Nov. 24th. Hymns were selected for November. Next meeting for this committee is Nov. 5th.

Parish Education: Youth Ministry: no meeting/no report [A.J. Ferrell]

Church Improvement: Kent Nelson reported that the planned tree trimming has been postponed. He reported that the illuminated cross on the front of the church had failed. Bee Seen Signs will be asked to replace the fixture with LED due to the failure of the neon tubing and its leaking gas. The Church is required to have an electrical inspection by our insurance provider, Church Mutual Insurance Co. The lighting in the Church Office has been replaced with new ballast.

Stewardship & Finance: Chairperson Stacy Bubach reported the Committee is planning to meet on Monday the 28th of October to discuss the 2025 Church Budget.

Mutual Ministry: Chairperson Jana Thompson: No meeting/no report

Old Business: None

New Business: Zola Finch reported that the October Mission offering envelope would go to Lutheran Disaster Response to aid the people affected by the hurricanes. This was agreed to upon a motion by Jana Thompson, seconded by Kent Nelson, and agreed to by all.

There will be no November Council Meeting. The meeting then adjourned. A recitation of the Our Father was led by Pastor Viles.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer / Erika Gerth:

Our October meeting was attended by 27 and the Influenza Vaccine was given to 21 people. Thanks to Erika Gerth for making arrangements with the Cole County Health Department to administer the shots. Because of a scheduling conflict, please note that our [November meeting will be moved up 1 week to November 13](#). Our program is pending, so watch the Sunday bulletin for further details. If you plan to attend, make reservations with Rose Strobel at 694-3634 or 782-4553 by Monday evening, November 11.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The Mobile Food Truck was held October 8th with nice fall weather at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot in Russellville. We served 116 families with 341 people. Some of the items given out were: strawberry milk, one dozen eggs, chocolate protein powder, canned corn and beans, five pounds of potatoes, ramen noodles, crackers, Similac baby formula, Nature Valley granola bars, Romaine lettuce, Italian sausage, and fresh mushrooms. Misty Bleich donated a steel deck wagon for the volunteers to use for gathering groceries and delivering to vehicles. Misty works at Harbor Freight in Jefferson City. Thanks to all the volunteers helping with this community service. Volunteers from Lohman Lions Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran Church were Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile will be November 12th at 1:00 P.M.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger:

The Jr. Lutherans did not meet in October. We are looking forward to Christmas activities in November or December.

St. Paul's Perpetual Cemetery News:

The St. Paul's Perpetual Cemetery Board met September 15th for their annual meeting, Roger Pennell's term is up, we elected Jason Plochberger to the board and he is now our new President. Notice gravel has been hauled in and spread out at the bottom of the new concrete driveway. On the North side of the cemetery work has begun to clear out the brush and will continue to make improvements. It already has made a big difference.

WELCA Chili Supper

The annual chili supper was held on October 6th, WELCA would like to say thanks for the help in planning, donations of food, monetary, helping serve, work, and support. The total from the dining in, carry outs and country store so far is \$4,757.50. Thank you for your willingness to support our Chili Supper.

Fruendschaft Gruppe

There were 20 in attendance at our October meeting and Donita treated us to free happy leftovers. The-main work detail was labeling and loading the quilt boxes for delivery to Our Savior's in Jefferson City. Many thanks to Kathryn and Donita for volunteering to make the delivery. We had a total of 36 quilts. Our November meeting will be December 2 and we will celebrate the Hanging of the Greens. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Jeannette at 782-4594 by 9 PM December 1. The tentative date for putting up the Christmas Tree and finish decorating is December 21.

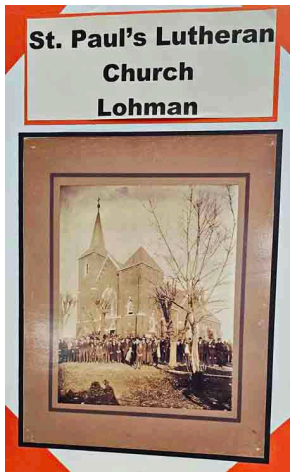
Poinsettias for the church:

It is time to consider purchasing poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary for the Christmas season. Please give your orders for the poinsettias to Kathryn Linsenbardt no later than Sunday, December 1st. You may call her at 782-4683. The cost this year is \$10.00 each. Please note if they are in honor or memory of someone.

100TH Anniversary of the Sanctuary Rebuilt in 1924 – SUNDAY, October 27, 2024

We are thankful for the many people who provided information and artifacts dating back to the construction of the Sanctuary and basement in 1924. Our church is extremely grateful and blessed by the amazing job Debbie Boyce did in coordinating and setting up for this event. She had some wonderful help and appreciates all you did. We also appreciate Misty Schroeder and her family for the food, horse rides, and help putting this together. Roger Pennell for the hay rides showing where the original log church was built and putting together several pages of history for our church and community. St. Paul's church has an incredibly amazing congregation. Here are a few pictures from our day.







Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Our group of nine women met on Tuesday evening, October 22, 2024 at the Church. We were treated to a supper of scrumptious tacos, complete with all the trimmings, lovingly prepared by Ruth Stubinger. I can honestly say I've never tasted any better tacos and we thank Ruth for her gracious hospitality. Our tummies satisfied with good food, we tuned in to Helen Girard as she led us in a study on "faith". She reminded us of the many ways in which God's Holy Word fuels our own faith by the examples of faith-filled individuals in our families, church, and community. Thank you, Helen, for sharing your faith through this Bible study. Margaret Circle brings cheer to St. Paul's members and friends through its greeting card ministry. Kathryn Linsenbardt regularly sends cards, signed by all our members, to those who cannot regularly attend worship services at St. Paul's. Donita Stubinger and Marie Schepelerle reported on the recently held Fall Gathering in Columbia and reminded us that in Fall of 2025, St. Paul's, Lohman, will host this event! Recognizing the outstanding work performed at Oaks Indian Mission in Oklahoma, our Circle sent \$300.00 of the evening's offering to further the Oaks mission on behalf of children and families. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at the home of Debbie Boyce. All women of St. Paul's, and their friends, are invited.

Election Day: The 2024 general elections are scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024.** The basement Friendship Hall will open at 6:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m.

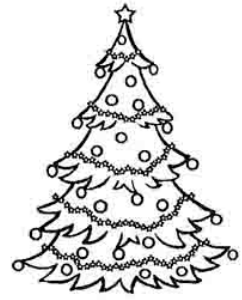
WELCA German Christmas Cookie Sale – Trish Russell

Our annual Cookie Sale will be held Sunday, December 1st from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Community Bldg. Your home baked cookies, breads, candies, etc. are needed to make the sale successful. Please package your baked goodies on paper or plastic plates and we will price them. Cookies will be packaged and priced on Saturday, November 30th. We will still accept donations on Sunday morning. We appreciate all our great bakers and hope you will consider coming out for the Ham & Bean – Chicken Noodle Supper downstairs at the Community Bldg. Serving will be from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.



2024 ANNUAL BRANSON CHRISTMAS TRIP

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN TRAVEL LOHMAN, MISSOURI



November 20 & 21

**\$270.00 (double room occupancy) includes:
1 Night's Lodging – 3 Meals – 3 Shows – Transportation**

**Come along with us to Branson! An enjoyable journey with friends, good food,
good shows, and good fellowship awaits you!**

Wednesday, November 20

- Leave St Paul's @ 7:30am – Cavalier Coaches
- Breakfast break in Lebanon (on your own)
- Buffet lunch at Godfather's Pizza @ 11:15am
- Check-in at Seven Gables Inn
- **Branson Belle Showboat (dinner & show) @ 4:00pm**

Thursday, November 21

- Breakfast at Seven Gables Inn @ 7:00am
- **Cassandra voice of an angel @ 10:00am**
- Lunch at Starvin Marvin's @ 12:15pm
- **Branson Christmas Wonderland @ 2:00pm**
- Dinner stop @ McDonald's, Lebanon (on your own)

Please confirm your reservations by **October 1, 2024**. Those who made the trip last year will have the first opportunity for reservations. Deposits are to be made **no later than October 8, 2024**. Make checks payable to **St Paul's Lutheran Travel Fund**. (Note: We cannot guarantee refunds after November 1, 2024) Payments should be mailed or given to **Audrey Bunch, 11108 West Lohman Rd, Lohman, MO 65053, Phone: 573-782-3177** (Other contact: **Rosemary Heidbreder cell#573-619-8654**)

Due to the Moreau bridge closing, please use Route C when traveling to St. Paul's Church.



NOTE: Serving time begins at 11:00 AM this year.

HAM & BEANS CHICKEN & NOODLE DINNER



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

**LOHMAN COMMUNITY BUILDING
8910 LINCOLN STREET
LOHMAN, MO**

**Serving 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
All you can eat**

**Adults: \$13.00
Children ages 5 - 12: \$6.00**

Sponsored by: Lohman Community Corporation



CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Many German Christmas Cookies

Starting at 11:00 a.m.

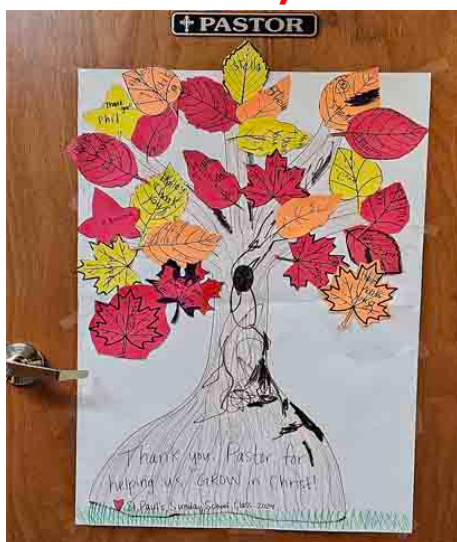
Sponsored by: St. Paul's Women of the ELCA



WELCA News: Audrey bunch

Women of the ELCA Mid-Missouri Fall Gathering was held September 28, 2024 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia. We started with registration and morning refreshments. St. Andrew's welcomed all attendees with Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Pyrmont Trinity had the opening devotions. The sing a long was led by Our Savior's Camdenton, we sang "Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil", "Sweet Hour of Prayer", and "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying". Pastor David Frericks at St. Andrew's led the Bible study about prayers, be thankful, pray anytime and any place. Brauersville Immanuel collected the offering and prayed. The business meeting started with roll call, 41 were in attendance. St. Paul's Lohman had six members, Marie Scheperle, Kathryn Linsenbardt, Donita Stubinger, Helen Girard, Rosemary Heidbreder and Audrey Bunch. Minutes were approved from the 2024 Spring Gathering. Our Savior's Jefferson City gave the offering report from the Spring Gathering. Election held for Board Members. St. Paul's in Cole Camp gave out invitations to the 2025 Spring Gathering for Mid-Missouri, April 26, 2025. Jane Williams with LOVE COLUMBIA was our speaker. It was about connecting relationships and resources to love people forward. Our in kind gifts were donated to this organization. St. Paul's members donated bags and boxes of bodycare, products and household cleaners. Neighbors helping neighbors is what this is about since 2008. Christ and Trinity, Sedalia gave the table prayer before we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by St. Andrew's women. After lunch we had another sing a long "On Eagle's Wing", "Change My Heart, O'God, and "Here I am, Lord". The afternoon program "GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY" by Karen Speckman a volunteer for 21 years. She told us about the teaching skills for growing their own food, nutrition, hygiene, and gives hope for opportunities to work on their own and be able to provide for their families. Immanuel Lutheran, Brauersville gave the offering report that was collected earlier. Kent Memorial, Sunrise Beach held the memorial service Psalm 121, two members of St. Paul's Lohman Pat Collins, and Donna Viles were included in the memorial. Gloria Sharp installed the new Board Members. Closing prayer by St. Paul's, Lohman, led by Marie Scheperle. When leaving the meeting we were given a St. Andrew's cookbook and treats for the ride home.

Children's Sunday School:



AJ Ferrell & Wendy Barker have amazing classes twice a month and teaching our children to follow our Lord Jesus example of love, caring, compassion, and kindness. Pastor David is so proud, and was blessed to receive handmade cards from the children after the passing of his wife, Donna. And a beautiful tree of thankfulness the next week.

Pastor loves all the children.



Calendar of Events and Schedules

November 3rd, Sunday: Children's Sunday School

November 3rd, Sunday: Fellowship Hour in the basement, after All Saints Sunday worship.

November 5th, Tuesday: General Election Day in the Basement of St. Paul's Church.

November 5th, Tuesday: Worship and Music Meeting in the Basement of St. Paul's Church.

November 8th & 9th, Saturday-Sunday: Wedding Rehearsal (Basement Rental) and Wedding

November 11th, Monday: Church Council will **NOT** meet this month.

November 12th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.

November 13th, Wednesday: S.T.A.R.S. will gather at 11:30 a.m.

November 17th, Sunday: ThankOffering Service

November 17th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School

November 17th, Sunday: Baptism of Walker Jordan Russell, son of Jordan Russell and Kelsey Bax.

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

November 20th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

November 22nd, Friday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.

November 27th, Wednesday: Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

November 30th, Saturday: Packing Cookies for Cookie Sale at 8:00 a.m.

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays.

Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

Council Schedule

Nov – 03	AJ Ferrell
Nov – 10	Kent Nelson
Nov – 17	Frank Pascoe
Nov – 24	Jana Thompson
Nov – 27	Misty Schroeder

Acolyte Schedule

Nov – 03	Oliver Stoermer
Nov – 10	Oliver Stoermer
Nov – 17	Morgan Schroeder
Nov – 24	Lucas Plochberger
Nov – 27	Madeline Stubinger

Greeters Schedule

Nov – 03	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Nov – 10	Audrey Bunch	Gary Elliott
Nov – 17	Devin Koestner	Jerry Koestner
Nov – 24	David Russell	Trish Russell
Nov – 27	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle

Readers Schedule

Nov – 03	Jessica Stoermer
Nov – 10	Marie Scheperle
Nov – 17	Thank Offering
Nov – 24	Laurie Koestner
Nov – 27	Audrey Bunch

Song Leader

Nov – 03	Kathy Meller
Nov – 10	Dan Tschirgi
Nov – 17	Kathy Meller
Nov – 24	Dan Tschirgi
Nov – 27	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

Nov – 03	Dan Tschirgi
Nov – 10	Roger Pennell
Nov – 17	Dan Tschirgi
Nov – 24	Roger Pennell
Nov – 27	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

Nov – 03	Zola Finch
Nov – 10	Kathy Meller
Nov – 17	Zola Finch
Nov – 24	Zola Finch
Nov – 27	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Donald and Becky Weber

Communion Assistants

Nov – 10	Jessica Stoermer
Nov – 24	Donald Weber

Altar Flowers for the Month

Marie Scheperle

* Communion Days noted in Yellow