

EPIS⁺LE



St. Paul's Lutheran The Church On The Hill

Volume 69 No. 5

May - 2025

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Pastor's Message

Mother's Day Devotion

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Proverbs 31:28

Motherhood is one of the most beautiful and challenging callings God has created. It calls us to honor the love, sacrifice, and tireless work they pour into their families. Mothers give of themselves in countless ways, nurturing, teaching, comforting, and guiding. Often, their sacrifices seem small in the moment: preparing a meal, wiping away a tear, offering an encouraging word when it's needed. Yet, these simple acts of love leave an extraordinary and lasting impact.

Her actions are rooted in a love for God and family. Though the daily work of motherhood may seem ordinary, God sees it as extraordinary. The words, "Her children arise and call her blessed," remind us we are called to honor our mothers, not just on special occasions like Mother's Day, but every day of the year. Whether we are young and still under her care or grown with families of our own, we should take time to recognize the blessing she is.

If your mother is still with you, tell her how much she means to you. Be specific about the ways her love, care, and sacrifices have shaped your life. If your mother has passed, take a moment to thank God for her influence and the legacy she left behind.

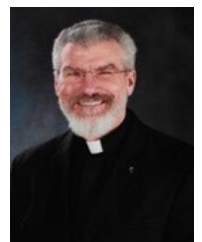
The verse says, "Her husband also, and he praises her." Husbands, this is a call to honor the mother of your children. Speak words of affirmation and appreciation. Acknowledge her hard work, celebrate her sacrifices, and remind her that she is cherished. A mother's love transforms ordinary moments into extraordinary memories. It is a love that nurtures, protects, and empowers. God designed motherhood as a sacred calling, reflecting His own unconditional love: patient, forgiving, and eternally supportive. Mothers see potential where others see limitations. They cultivate dreams, nurture talents, and create safe spaces where their children can grow and thrive.

Arise and express your love. Every "thank you" uplifts her heart, every moment of appreciation is a reminder of her worth. Acknowledging her contributions is a profound way we can return love.

Mothers are living legacies of strength, compassion, and resilience. Their stories are not written in books, but in the hearts of the people they love. Their action extends beyond their families, creating ripples of kindness and grace that touch entire communities.

A mother's love is a gift from God, a blessing that grows, evolves, and inspires. A mother is a teacher, a protector, a friend, and a guiding light. She is a reflection of God's divine love, and her life is a testimony to His faithfulness.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor David Viles



MAY BIRTHDAYS

3	Scott Grunden
3	Kathryn Linsenbardt
4	Shane Russell
7	Nancy Thompson
9	Zola Finch
10	Oliver Stoermer
12	Roger Thompson
14	Mark Schroeder
15	Kim Tschirgi
18	DaisyRae Linhardt
19	Dave Boyce
19	Ruthann Woehrer
20	Macie Moeller
21	Lottie Tierney
23	Dawn James
25	Anthony James
25	Marvin Bubach
25	Kendall Stubinger
28	Bill Gerth
30	Doug Carel
30	Dana Moeller
31	Ryan Heidbreder

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
APRIL 06	106 / 237	\$ 3,127.00
APRIL 13	86 / 192	\$ 3,063.53
APRIL 20	172 / 343	\$ 4,509.00
APRIL 27	60 / 190	\$ 1,374.00

Additional Income:

Maundy Thursday, Coyote Hill Foster Care:	\$ 380.00
Good Friday, Mid MO. Foster Care & Adoption:	\$ 314.00
Lent Mid-Week, ELCA Hunger Appeal:	\$1,494.00

Miles Henry Morgans, son of Tim and Heather Morgans, grandson of Barbara & Henry Carrel, was Baptized on April 20, 2025. We welcome this beautiful child of God into the family of Christ, and the family of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Kent & Julie Nelson	1993	
6	Denny & Lori Linhardt	2000	25 YRS.
10	Kris & Laura Tuttle	2015	10 YRS.
15	Gus & Jeannette Fischer	1960	65 YRS.
16	Scott & Kelly Grunden	1992	
19	Chris & Elizabeth Russell	2001	
23	Conor & Angela Tierney	2015	10 YRS.
23	Dan & Kim Tschirgi	1987	
23	Chase & Riley Pistel	2020	5 YRS.
25	Colin & Ruthann Woehrer	1968	
31	Bill & Erika Gerth	1960	65 YRS.

Continued prayers for:

Curt Bracher, Roger & Nancy Thompson, Stacy McNamer, Don Buchta, Julie Carel, Debi Berry's sister, Jackie Tinsley, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



Congregational Council Meeting, April 14, 2025

† The regular monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of St. Paul's ELCA, Lohman, Missouri was changed to virtual reporting by Council President Zola Finch.

† The council member reports were submitted by Debbie Raithel, AJ Ferrell and Pastor Viles.

† Michelle Collins presented the total number of hours that she worked for approval.

† Pastor's report showed seven meetings with parish and local groups. Pastor met with the Church Council, and had 7 visits, 1 funeral, 8 activities, 9 services: 2 with communion and 3 non-communion, a service on Ash Wednesday and 3 Lenten mid-week services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. In addition, the 7 visits and consultations were with our parishioners and others. In addition, Pastor answered text messages and phone messages daily. Activities: Created Pancake flyer for the Church Pancake Breakfast on March 16th; helped with setup for Universal Church Directories photo shoot 18th, 19th, 26th; attended the Community Center Meeting in conjunction with City Council Representatives; Photos of Benne family for the photo directory; Visitation at Church for Melvin Stubinger' funeral on Sunday afternoon. Updated Website with Video services. Created April Epistle and emailed.

President Finch: requested our committee chairpersons to present their reports on recent activities.

Evangelism: Misty Schroeder No Report.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi No Report.

Worship & Music: Ashleigh Hillen No Report.

Mutual Ministry: Debbie Raithel reported the Mutual Ministry Committee met on March 11, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Pastor David gave the opening prayer. We had 5 members plus Pastor David present at the meeting.

In Old Business: Our annual Pancake Breakfast was successful with help from the Evangelism Committee and the Jr. Lutherans. The Technology Committee believes they have their FaceBook issues worked out.

In New Business: We discussed ways to get the parsonage ready for short term rentals. Furniture donations needed. Possible help from the WELCA ladies. Will need to purchase a new cook stove for the kitchen. The parsonage will need to be used so we can continue getting insurance coverage for the parsonage.

Next meeting set for April 16 at 5:30 pm. We closed the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Parish Education: A.J. Ferrell No Report.

Church Improvement: Kent Nelson No Report.

Stewardship/Finance: Gus Fischer No Report.

Old Business: Reminder that there is a Church Parsonage, and a Church basement rental form: The form should be completed after confirming the date with Pastor, and given to him. If you have a need to rent either location, please see Pastor.

New Business: There will be a Central States Synod Assembly from 5-7 June in Olathe Kansas (Thurs – Sat). Registration closes 15 May and if you are interested, please contact Pastor. It requests one male and one female to attend. The church pays the costs. **(Rooms at Embassy Suites are SOLD OUT.)**

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 12th, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Debi Berry

Craft Group: Debi Berry

There are 12 members thus far who are interested in forming a craft group, i.e., card making, diamond dotting, wood painting, scrapbooking, crocheting, and knitting lessons, etc. Debi Berry will be the Person of Contact and there will be a short meeting of all interested parties on May 11th immediately following the service.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

STARS met on April 16 with 22 in attendance. Audrey Bunch organized the Bingo games and assembled a variety of great prizes. Our May meeting will be Wednesday, May 21, with lunch at 11:30 a.m. Our speaker will be attorney Chis Conway from Jefferson City. He specializes in wills and trusts for families and individuals, businesses and farms. Following his presentation he will be happy to answer your questions. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel by Monday, May 19th. She can be reached at 573-782-4553

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth April Fools Day! I questioned whether this was actually the correct date for Margaret Circle to meet. Or was this a joke? I carefully checked my notes and the calendar and, no fooling, Tuesday, April 1, 2025 was indeed the correct date for St. Paul's Margaret Circle to meet! Since it was my turn to provide refreshments I quickly prepared my never-fail chocolate chip cake, cut up some strawberries, sprinkled some foil wrapped chocolates across the table and we were ready for our meeting!

Kay presented the evening's Bible study about the men we know as Caspar, Melchoir and Balthazar, the magi who traveled a long distance to see the new born child of whom so much had been told. Ask Kay to tell you about 20 + C + M + B + 25!

Thank you letters from Russellville Elementary School and Worldwide Mobility were shared, as well as newsletters from other organizations. Marie reminded us of the WELCA Spring Gathering which will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cole Camp on Saturday, April 26. Our church will host the Fall Gathering on September 27, 2025. Preliminary planning is already underway!

The evening's offering was sent to Rape and Abuse Crisis Services to support their work in assisting women and their children who are fleeing from abusive relationships. Margaret Circle's next meeting will be held at the home of Kay Pascoe on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, for the annual Salad Supper. Ruth Stubinger will lead the Bible Study. Seriously, no fooling, all women of the church, and their friends, are welcome to attend! Please RSVP to Kay or Erika.

Spaghetti Luncheon: Donita Stubinger

On Sunday, April 6, the Jr. Lutherans helped with the Spaghetti Luncheon along with their parents. We so much appreciate all the desserts everyone brought. We certainly were impressed with the variety of desserts and how many choices we had. It was great how everyone showed up to work. Thanks to Mark & Misty Schroeder for donating all the hamburger for the luncheon. We collected a free will offering of \$1,567 to add to our treasury. It was a very huge success. Thanks to all of our church congregation, family and friends for their support. Also, a special thanks to Thrivent for their donation. Hope everyone saw the bulletin board of all of our Jr. Lutheran activities. Thanks to Trish Russell and Ruth Stubinger for getting it together. Also thanks to Trish for all the table decorations.

Our Graduating Class and New Members:

We will recognize and honor our graduating students from the area schools on Sunday, May 4th. Also we will recognize and introduce 8 new members to our congregation. After our worship service everyone is invited to join the celebration for these two events in the basement for Fellowship Hour to meet and greet and talk with and congratulate our 2025 graduates and our newest members.

2025 Senior Graduates



Marshal Schroeder, son of Misty and Mark Schroeder, graduated from Cole R-1 High School. Worked at Adam's Land & Cattle feedlot Jan. to May. He plans to attend State Tech for Civil Engineering then MU for mechanical engineering. He would like to work at the Callaway Nuclear Plant.



Meredith Joy Benne, daughter of Nicole and Andy Benne, is graduating from Cole R-1 High School on Friday, May 9, 2025. She will be attending State Technical College in Linn, MO this fall to pursue a degree in Radiology.



Leland Stewart, son of Ashleigh and Shawn Hillen is graduating from Calvary Lutheran High School. Leland is currently planning to seek a job in the local workforce.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger

Our Jr. Lutherans have had a busy April. We dyed Easter Eggs after church on Sunday, April 13. Thanks to Audrey & Gary Bunch, Makayla and Harley Enowski, Debi & John Berry, and Hope & Kendall Stubinger we had 30 dozen eggs donated to color. The Jr. Lutherans and their families had lots of ideas and decorating skills they put on all the eggs – thanks to A.J. Ferrell for her spin machine. After coloring all the eggs, we enjoyed lasagna, beef and noodles, salad, French bread and lots of leftover cookies and bars. It was a fun filled afternoon and we look forward doing it again next year. But we so hope the surprise Easter Bunny will show up again. That was really a big treat. Little Steven and Huxton were not big fans of the huge Easter Bunny. Maybe by next year they might get used to her. Thanks to everyone for making it a very special day for the kiddos.



WELCA LENT INGATHERING: Donita Stubinger:

During the season of Lent, we gathered bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotions, deodorants and other items for the Samaritan Center. We are very thankful for the items you donated to help others during this time of reflection on how we are called to follow Christ and be his hands and feet in a world that is desperate for his love. Rosemary Heidbreder and Audrey Bunch counted 215 items that were donated and they delivered them to the Samaritan Center on Monday, April 21, 2025.

St. Paul's congregation is truly a Christ centered people of God who continue to show his light in a world shadowed by others who have fallen to the influence of greed, apathy, and a position of self reliance. As your Pastor, I cannot say enough how proud I am to lead a true people of God who show his love in their daily lives.

Mobile Food Pantry: The April 8th Mobile Food Pantry Truck was at Trinity in Russellville. Had nice weather with sunshine and a breeze. The volunteers served 113 families with 321 people. Some of the items given out were fresh produce: tomatoes, radishes, kale, sweet potatoes, red and yellow potatoes, dozens of eggs, cartons of milk, bouquets of flowers, ramen noodles, blue raspberry bottles of Ghost drink, rice, frozen corn on the cob, cereal in bags, frozen catfish fillets, miscellaneous food from the Boy Scouts, assorted box cereal and assorted pop tarts from St. Michaels Catholic Church. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Pantry will be May 13th at 1:00 P.M.

2025 Photo Directory:

Debbie Boyce, Debbie Raithel, Misty Schroeder, and Pastor David met with Mike Dust, the representative from Universal Church Directories. We have been tasked with choosing layout options and submitting photos gathered by Pastor David Viles. As soon as we have all the details in order we will submit them to UCD and expect to receive our photo directories within a few weeks. Thank you to everyone who participated in the scheduled photo sessions and those who had their photos taken by Pastor David or sent a photo to be included in the directories.

Easter Sunday, April 20th



Annual Fish Fry



Ribbon Fries, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Corn Bread & Desserts

Sponsored by the

Lohman Community Corporation

Sunday, May 4th, 2025

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

\$13.00 Adults, \$7.00 6-12 years

5 and under Free

Lohman Community Center

8910 Lincoln St, Lohman, MO

(Proceeds go towards the upkeep & improvement of the Old School building)

Good food, good friends, good fun.

**Questions – call Keith & Denise Ziegelbein at 782-6675
or Carol & Gary Elliott at 782-4741**

Easter was a wonderful day despite the rains that are needed

As we do each year, members of our congregation brought decorated the cross in front of the church which had been draped in purple cloth during Holy Week and then a black cloth on Good Friday. This transformation is the culmination of the Good News of Christ crucified and risen for our salvation. Thank you to all you transformed a cross of death into life as Jesus did for us.

Palm Sunday



Easter Choir:



Children's Sermon



Easter Altar



EASTER ACTIVITIES:

Egg Coloring:



Easter Bunny



SAVE THE DATE

**Russellville/Lohman Fire Protection
District Auxiliary**



Saturday, May 17, 2025

Eagle Stop @

**Intersection of C & D Highway
Lohman, MO**

Serving starts at 10:00 a.m.

- Brats ■ Pork Steak
- Pulled Pork ■ ¼ lb. Beef Hot Dogs

Dinner includes two sides and drink.

Sides: potato salad, baked beans, chips.

****Cash Only****



Thank you for your support!



WELCA Mid-Missouri Spring Gathering - Erika Gerth



The clouds hung low on Saturday morning, April 26, 2025, as the temperature hovered around the mid-fifties. Grateful that it was not raining, Marie Scheperle, Kathryn Linsenbardt, Audrey Bunch, Rosemary Heidbreder and I piled into Donita Stubinger's van and off we went to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cole Camp for the Mid-Missouri Spring Gathering! We arrived in time to enjoy pastries, fruit and coffee prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Settled into our seats in the church's beautiful sanctuary, we were welcomed by members of our

host church and introduced to the day's theme, "Faith Working Through Love," based on Galatians 5:6b. WELCA gatherings always include hymn sings and today was no exception. Three very talented ladies from Our Savior's, Camdenton, selected six hymns, each of which was related to the day's theme and sung with enthusiasm by the 38 women in attendance. The morning's Bible study was also based on Galatians 6:5b, and was presented by Cole Camp's Pastor Stephen Zeller. He explained the background for the verse, and that according to the apostle Paul, faith is the only thing that counts, and faith expresses itself through action, which is love.

Updates from Central States Women of the ELCA were presented by Gloria Sharp, President, Our Savior's Jefferson City, and Janice Gerken, Treasurer, St. Paul's Cole Camp. What would a church meeting be without good food? The ladies of Cole Camp provided a wonderful assortment of salads and desserts for us to enjoy during lunch. The Coconut Cake received rave reviews – ask Rosemary, she managed to get the recipe!

A prime example of "faith through love" was a tour of Cole Camp's preschool and daycare center. The congregation recognized the need for a half-day program for preschoolers and six years ago began such a program in the basement of the church. More recently, as the need in the community for full-day child care became more evident, the church met that need as well. Truly, the establishment of the Little Blessings Day Care and Preschool is an example of faith in action!

The afternoon's guest speaker was Connie McCray, Director and founder of Hope5One, an organization working to give hope and freedom from human trafficking, based in Warsaw, MO. Connie spoke about this problem which occurs not just in big cities, but in rural communities as well. She talked about how girls and young women get caught up in trafficking and the need for education, intervention, and treatment. The organization is a faith-based, non-profit, 501c3 organization, works closely with local and state partnerships. It also offers short term hotel rooms and meets needs for recently rescued survivors, trains volunteers and staff and hosts community awareness events. Connie McCray and her team are yet one more example of faith in action! A Love Offering was received to which our St. Paul's WELCA contributed \$200.00 toward a total of \$1,101.00. Central States Women of the ELCA and the Little Blessings Day Care and Preschool each received \$550.50. The special offering to benefit Hope5One totaled \$506.00, \$50.00 of which was contributed by our own congregation's WELCA.

All of us from Lohman are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this gathering. Special thanks to Donita for driving and Marlene Carlson for designing the beautiful invitations for the Fall Gathering, to be held at St. Paul's, Lohman, on September 27, 2025!

If you are attending, please text AJ at 573-301-6622 so we can get a head count for lunch. If you would like to help with lunch (variety chips, fruit, juice packs, etc.) please also let AJ know!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FIELD TRIP



LET'S PLAY TOGETHER!

You're invited to an afternoon of fun with area Sunday School/youth groups!

We will meet at Runge Nature Center around 11:30.

We will do a short Bible lesson, picnic style lunch, and play outside together!



**RUNGE NATURE CENTER
(OUTSIDE - INSIDE IS NOT OPEN)**



SUNDAY, MAY 4



11:30 AM

In case of inclement weather, we will meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and play there.

**CONTACT AJ FERRELL @ ST. PAUL'S LUTERAN FOR QUESTIONS!
573-301-6622**

Calendar of Events and Schedules

May 4th, Sunday: Introduce new members and recognize senior graduates, Fellowship hour after.

May 4th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School

May 4th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School Field Trip, meet at Runge Nature Center around 11:30 a.m.

May 6th, Tuesday: Worship and Music to pick hymns via email.

May 11th, Sunday: Mother's Day

May 12th, Monday: Church Council will meet in the Sunday School room upstairs at 6:00 p.m.

May 13th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.

May 15th – 21st, Thursday - Wednesday: Pastor David Viles is on Vacation to Arkansas.

May 18th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School

May 20th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.

May 21st, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

May 21st, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

May 24th, Saturday: Epistle News Deadline, please have all articles in as soon as possible.

May 25th, Sunday: Memorial Day service to follow worship service.

May 30th, Friday: Basement rented by Doug Carel, 12pm – 8pm

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

Council Schedule

May – 04	Gus Fischer
May – 11	Debbie Raithel
May – 18	Ashleigh Hillen
May – 25	AJ Ferrell

Greeters Schedule

May – 04	David Russell	Trish Russell
May – 11	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle
May – 18	Rosemary Heidbreder	Richard Heidbreder
May – 25	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson

Acolyte Schedule

May – 04	Morgan Schroeder
May – 11	Lucas Plochberger
May – 18	Oliver Stoermer
May – 25	Madeline Stubinger

Readers Schedule

May – 04	Nicole Benne
May – 11	Erika Gerth
May – 18	Bill Gerth
May – 25	Jana Thompson

Song Leader

May – 04	Dan Tschirgi
May – 11	Kathy Meller
May – 18	Dan Tschirgi
May – 25	Dan Tschirgi

Audio / Video Technician

May – 04	Roger Pennell
May – 11	Dan Tschirgi
May – 18	Roger Pennell
May – 25	Roger Pennell

Organist / Keyboard

May – 04	Kathy Meller
May – 11	Zola Finch
May – 18	Zola Finch
May – 25	Kathy Meller

Communionware for the Month

Jim and Cynthia Loesch

Communion Assistants

May – 11	Jahanna Koestner
May – 25	Laurie or Jerry Koestner

Altar Flowers for the Month

Diane Kalaf

*** Communion Days noted in Yellow**