

# EPIS<sup>+</sup>LE



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

**Volume 69 No. 8**

**August - 2025**

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## **Pastor's Message**

### ***Be Prepared***

*"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return." Luke 12:35-36*

It's that time of year again. Backpacks are being dusted off, pencils sharpened, and folders stacked in bright colors, each one ready for the first day of school on August 20th.

Students in all grades are preparing to return to the classroom. Preparation is a big part of a strong start.

At Cole R1 School District, our local churches are pitching in

to make that start a little easier. St. Paul's has been collecting school folders, paper towels, and boxes of tissue for the community wide school supply giveaway. It's a way to say, "We care. We're with you."

But all this practical preparation points to a deeper truth Jesus spoke. Like students getting ready for school, Jesus calls His followers to be ready, alert, and expectant, but not for school. He speaks of something far more eternal: His return.

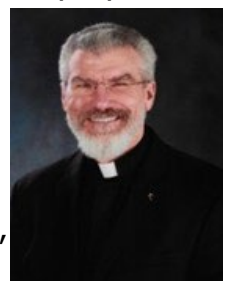
Being ready for Christ doesn't come with a list of supplies we can check off. It's not about folders or pencils. It's about hearts that are watching, and lives that are faithful. It's about living each day with purpose, love, and a clear eye on the One who has promised to come back.

Think of how much effort goes into preparing a child for school: setting routines, shopping for supplies, organizing rides, calming nerves. Now imagine if we prepared our spirits with the same care. What if we made space each day for prayer the way we make space for breakfast? What if we offered forgiveness as quickly as we hand out school supplies? What if we carried the Word of God with the same readiness as a student carries their backpack?

Jesus tells us to be like servants ready for their master to return at any hour. That means living each day in faithful obedience, not out of fear, but out of love and trust. Our time, our attention, and our service, is part of how we "keep our lamps burning." So as we help students prepare for another school year, let it also remind us to prepare ourselves spiritually. Let's be ready people—ready to give, ready to serve, and ready to meet our returning Savior.

And while we hand out folders and tissues, may we also hand out grace. **Amen**

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor David Viles



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Scott Soell  
 5 Lindsey Plochberger  
 8 Peyton Stubinger  
 14 John Loesch  
 15 Marlene Carlson  
 15 Nicole Benne  
 16 Kambry Pistel  
 17 Ashley Meyer  
 18 Lindsey Carrel  
 18 Michael Linhardt  
 18 Tinleigh Strobel  
 18 Delores Vlach  
 19 Kaysen Garner  
 22 Davin Pistel  
 24 Lucas Plochberger  
 24 Frank Pascoe  
 26 Harley Enowski  
 26 Michael Elliott  
 26 Jordan Russell  
 29 Barbara Carrel  
 29 Arabella Ferrell  
 29 Mandy Miller  
 29 Craig Stubinger  
 30 Jake Thompson  
 31 Marshal Schroeder



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1 Mitchell & Laura Plochberger 2009  
 2 Mike & Diane Kalaf **50 YRS** 1975  
 6 Frank & Kay Pascoe 1967  
 9 Larry & Debby Koestner 1969  
 16 Eric & Mary Beth Koestner 2003  
 20 Shawn & Ashleigh Hillen 2022  
 27 Pastor Ed & Carole Merckel 1977  
 27 James Crabtree & Sarah Gordon 2016

### Continued prayers for:

Viola Gordon and family, Glenda Hake,  
 Curt Bracher, Stacy McNamer, Debi Berry,  
 Don Buchta, Debi Berry's sister, Nathan Hollis  
 (Bill Wyss Grandson-in-Law) and all those we hold  
 dear in our hearts.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
<b>JULY 06</b>	<b>66 / 708</b>	<b>\$ 4,074.00</b>
<b>JULY 13</b>	<b>66 / 227</b>	<b>\$ 2,337.53</b>
<b>JULY 20</b>	<b>54 / 229</b>	<b>\$ 3,180.00</b>
<b>JULY 27</b>	<b>107 / 243</b>	<b>\$ 1,850.00</b>

### Additional Income:

With Heartfelt Appreciation for the special gifts this month from:  
**Gertrude (Woehrer) Vieth: \$20,000** to be split between  
**St. Paul's General fund \$10,000.00** and the **Cemetery fund \$10,000.00.**

**Gretchen Bruner: \$250.00** memorial

**Howard & Carol Woehrer: \$50.00** for basement rental.



Our Patriotic Service on Sunday, July 6, 2025  
 was a special time spent honoring our St. Paul's  
 Veterans and singing national hymns. Blessings  
 to all who served our God, our Country, and our  
 Church.

## **Congregational Council Meeting, June 9th, 2025**

### **† Congregational Council Meeting, July 14th, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of St. Paul's ELCA, Lohman, Missouri was canceled for the lack of members available during Vacation Bible School that week held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville.

### **† Church Treasurer's report** emailed by Michelle.

June 30, 2025 financial statements show YTD the church has income over expenses of \$4,062.60 and are tracking in line with the budget. The church is financially healthy.

- A new CD was initiated in the amount of \$60,000 as requested at the June meeting.
- We received a CD interest payment in June of \$897.33.
- Information Technology account (5414) shows a negative amount for June due to receiving a donation from Misty for a new computer but the expense not hitting until July.
- I contacted GFI about the increase notices and they stated they do not send notices, as they consider the contract itself the notice. It would simply be an increase on the April bill each year.

### **† Pastor's report:** Pastor emailed his report.

Pastor attended 7 meetings including the annual Central States Synod Assembly. He presented his mileage report for the trip to Olathe, KS which requested 343 miles to be paid at 1/2 the standard federal rate of 70 cents per mile. (343 miles x \$0.35 = \$120.00) The Church Council member voted by email to approve his mileage and pay this amount.

He had several visits with two families to arrange baptisms in July. He also responded to daily text messages and phone calls and communications.

Activities included attending Synod Assembly and writing a 4 page report on the assembly. Created embroidered baptism napkins for the three baptized. Ordered and set up two laptop computers for the secretary and his office. Created the July Epistle and posted it online. Updated the website with video services. Worked with the Technology committee to configure the two TV monitors and create a new bulletin format to broadcast.

Held three noncommunion services, and two communion services.

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

**Technology:** Dan Tschirgi reported on technology. Our TV screens in the sanctuary are being used now and all of the worship service is being cast to the two screens. Using a laptop, Pastor Viles was able to get the presentation into portrait mode using the entire TV screens and the slides are changed with a handheld remote that can be used from anywhere in the sanctuary. Council members have been operating the remote during our worship services. This seems to be working very well. Paper bulletins are still being printed and some are still preferring to listen, read, or sing using the paper copy. Thanks to Pastor David for all of the effort to get this working.

**Worship & Music:** Ashleigh Hillen reported that hymn choices were chosen via email by the participating committee members. Thank you to Kathy Meller for sending out hymn choices, then creating the list of hymns for August.

**Parish Education:** A.J. Ferrell reported by email.

VBS week was wild! Total I believe we had 18 kids from St. Paul's attend VBS at Trinity last week (including Marie's grandson Jackson). Fun was had by all! Huge thanks to Misty and all her work feeding the huge crowd of around 75 kids this year - the highest number Anna said she'd ever had. We had many volunteers helping with food serving, craft making, and leading in various ways!



**Looking ahead:** I plan to start gathering materials to start planning the Christmas program soon. I'd like to consider dates early so parents can plan well in advance. Want to solidify a date in the fall for sure.

August Sunday school will be the first Sunday, starting in September we will go back to 2 Sundays - first and third Sundays of the month.

**Church Improvement:** Kent Nelson reported by email.

A water leak in the parsonage was repaired last month so that the kitchen and bathrooms are available for during meetings that may be conducted in the parsonage.

A new keyless lock was installed last month to facilitate ease of entry for people wishing to use the parsonage for meetings and events. The code can be obtained from Pastor David, Kent Nelson, or in the church office.

There has been an ongoing issue with the air conditioning in the sanctuary. A blower motor was replaced and a follow-up call with the mechanical contractor to check performance is being scheduled. There was discussion at the last council meeting regarding building a permanent structure for the trash dumpster by the main road. A review of current MoDOT right of way requirements suggests that the structure should be approximately 22 feet from the centerline of Route D. Based off measurements, the structure would need to be just off the asphalt turnout from the driveway. A donation of vinyl fence to place around the dumpster has been offered.

**Stewardship/Finance:** Gus Fischer, no report this month.

**Mutual Ministry:** Debbie Raithel emailed her report.

Mutual Ministry met on Wednesday, June 11 at 5:30 at the parsonage. We had 3 members plus pastor David in attendance. Pastor started with an opening prayer. Discussion of topics were the Fireworks Celebration, placing the trash cans at the bottom of the hill and items received for the parsonage. Still working on replacing the broken plexi glass in one of the church windows. We had someone express interest in replacing some of the trees in the cemetery. Some of the trees were lost to storms. Next meeting was set for July 16, but cancelled because of VBS.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 11, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor David Viles

**STARS: Erika Gerth, Jeannette Fischer;**

Did you know that when you gather with a group of friends for lunch, conversation and a program, such as STARS, you are actually taking care of your brain? That's what we learned from Amelia Cottle, our guest speaker at STARS on July 16th. Twenty-seven seniors attended and enjoyed a wonderful "picnic" meal featuring brats, hot dogs, a variety of salads, and of course delicious desserts. Thanks to all who prepared food, served, and cleaned up! Amelia Cottle is an Alzheimer's and Dementia Diseases Community Advocate and Educator who has first hand understanding of the challenges faced by patients and care-givers. She cared for her husband who developed Alzheimer's Disease at the age of 52 until his passing seven years later. She was an awesome presenter leading us to a deeper understanding of Dementia Diseases, only one of which is Alzheimer's Disease. Remaining active, engaging in social activities, getting plenty of exercise, eating well, and managing chronic diseases are some of the ways we can delay the onset of Alzheimer's Disease. The Alzheimer's Association has many resources to help patients and families. Learn more at [alz.org](http://alz.org).

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20, and our program presenter will be Tom Hutchinson, Head Trainer/Liaison, for K9s On The Front Line. This organization trains service dogs for Veterans and First Responders. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 or 694-3634 by Monday evening, August 18.

### **Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth**

My calendar tells me that July has come to an end, which is a sure sign that Margaret Circle ladies will meet again soon! I turned the page (my calendar is a bit old fashioned!) and sure enough, Margaret Circle is on there for Tuesday, August 5, 2025! In case your calendar, no matter the style, is blank on that day, please add Margaret Circle to your already busy schedule and join us at 6:30 pm for fellowship, refreshments provided by Kathryn Linsenbardt, and a thought-provoking Bible study led by Kay Pascoe. You will find us in the Church's Fellowship Hall and hope you'll join us there! Kathryn (573-782-4683) and Erika Gerth (573-635-6681) look forward to your RSVP!

### **Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch**

The July 8th Mobile Food Pantry Truck was in Russellville at Trinity Lutheran. We served 129 families with 368 people in those families. Items given out from the Methodist Church were snack bags for the kids. From the truck half gallons of milk, cabbage, marshmallows, corn on the cob, chicken patties and chicken fingers, quick oatmeal, Gatorade packets, jellied cranberry sauce, honey cheese curls, and canned vegetables. We had 20 volunteers to help with this community event. The next mobile food truck will be August 12th at 1:00 P.M.

### **Children's Sunday School: AJ Ferrell**

Sunday school is August 3rd only. In September we will return to our normal schedule of the first and third Sunday for Sunday school.

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

Jr. Lutherans had a great turnout for the 4th of July celebration. The day started with serving cinnamon rolls for the fellowship hour after the patriotic worship service at church. We want to thank everyone for volunteering to help with food and activities. We enjoyed supporting the Lohman Lions Club with the meal they served at the Lohman Community Building. It tasted great. We appreciate all the hard work Eve and Jim Campbell did with Patty Ott's guidance to put the displays of history of our surrounded areas together for everyone to enjoy looking at upstairs in the Community Building.

The rest of the afternoon we set up for our 4th of July celebration at St. Paul's Church, by putting out chairs and tables, and getting our food stand set up for the evening. This year was a little different, we had to cancel the Sunday of June 29 because of rain, so we planned for July 6, 2025 the following Sunday and what did we get but more rain. But at the end of the day, the show did go on with food, fellowship, music provided by Dan Tschirgi and Pastor David as our MC. Our thanks to them! We had lots of people to enjoy the Super-Hotdogs, Homemade pies, Root beer floats, cinnamon rolls, cream puffs and drinks.

With all of our donations we had no expenses so we made a profit of \$684.00 which was great for the attendance we had. We want to thank everyone for donating everything and donating your time and energy to help make this a very successful event. We also want to thank the Cole County Cattlemen's Association for all the drinks, and catsup, mustard and relish packets.

At Vacation Bible School, we had 20 of our youth attend. This year we were very impressed with the 20 foot Long Whale which was made by Harry Thompson out of sheet plastic and taped together then inflated with air! It was certainly a sight to see as Jonah (Pastor David) was swallowed up for 3 days in the belly of the whale. Then Harry Thompson ordered manes to transform 2 Golden Retrievers to look like Lions for Pastor David to deal with, as Daniel in the lion's den. It was a sight to see! Grandparents and parents are welcomed at these VBS gatherings, you never know what might show up. Altogether, we had 82 children. Several adults came to help. We are thankful for Misty Schroeder who provided an evening meal each day and the ladies who helped in the kitchen and put it out for us to enjoy.

Now we look forward to accepting the hospitality of Chris and Liz Russell and enjoy their Swimming Pool on Sunday August 17, 2025 at 2:00 in the afternoon. More details to follow in the bulletins.



A look at the 4th of July celebration:





**Vacation Bible School – It was a Whale of a time – Pastor David played Jonah and Daniel**

Harry Thompson created the Whale that was twenty feet long and about four feet wide and tall. It was an incredible creation. This kids loved it and enjoyed going inside of it, as did Pastor David.





## Calendar of Events and Schedules

**August 3rd**, Sunday: Fellowship hour hosted by Mark and Kathy Meller.

**August 3rd**, Sunday: Children's Sunday School.

**August 4th**, Monday: Worship and Music meeting in Church Friendship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**August 5th**, Tuesday: Margaret Circle will meet in the Church Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.

**August 11th**, Monday: Church Council will meet in the Sunday School room upstairs at 6:00 p.m.

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

**August 13th**, Wednesday: Craft group meets in the basement at 7:00 p.m.

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

**August 20th**, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

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

**August 22nd**, Thursday: Epistle News Deadline, please have all articles in as soon as possible.

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

### Council Schedule

Aug. – 03	Kent Nelson
Aug. – 10	Misty Schroeder
Aug. – 17	Ashleigh Hillen
Aug. – 24	AJ Ferrell
Aug. – 31	Kent Nelson

### Greeters Schedule

Aug. – 03	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Aug. – 10	Audrey Bunch	Jerry Koestner
Aug. – 17	David Russell	Trish Russell
Aug. – 24	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle
Aug. – 31	Rosemary Heidbreder	Richard Heidbreder

### Acolyte Schedule

Aug. – 03	Lucas Plochberger
Aug. – 10	Oliver Stoermer
Aug. – 17	Madeline Stubinger
Aug. – 24	Morgan Schroeder
Aug. – 31	Lucas Plochberger

### Readers Schedule

Aug. – 03	Bill Gerth
Aug. – 10	Erika Gerth
Aug. – 17	Carol Elliott
Aug. – 24	Marlene Carlson
Aug. – 31	Donald Weber

### Song Leader

Aug. – 03	Kathy Meller
Aug. – 10	Kathy Meller
Aug. – 17	Dan Tschirgi
Aug. – 24	Kathy Meller
Aug. – 31	Dan Tschirgi

### Audio / Video Technician

Aug. – 03	Dan Tschirgi
Aug. – 10	Dan Tschirgi
Aug. – 17	Roger Pennell
Aug. – 24	Dan Tschirgi
Aug. – 31	Roger Pennell

### Organist / Keyboard

Aug. – 03	Zola Finch
Aug. – 10	Zola Finch
Aug. – 17	Zola Finch
Aug. – 24	Zola Finch
Aug. – 31	Kathy Meller

### Communionware for the Month

**Benne & Stubinger Families**

### Communion Assistants

Aug. – 10	Jessica Stoermer
Aug. – 24	Donald Weber

### Altar Flowers for the Month

**Marlene Carlson**

\* Communion Days noted in Yellow