

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 69 No. 9

September - 2025

Pastor's Message

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Relief in due season

"He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water." Psalm 107:35

During the past few weeks, our community has faced a challenging season of extreme heat and dryness. The blazing sun and lack of rain have made it difficult for farmers to care for their crops, gardens, and livestock. Many of us have felt the weight of these hot, relentless days, praying for relief. Finally, we have seen a change, a blessed drop in temperatures to the refreshing 70's. What a relief it is to feel the cool breeze and see signs of recovery in our land!

As we enjoy this much-needed reprieve, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and provision, even in difficult times. Psalm 107:35 says, *"He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water."* What a beautiful reminder that God is the one who restores and refreshes both the land and our spirits.

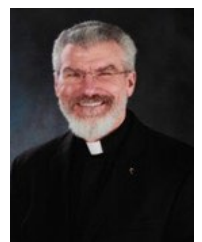
For the farmers among us, the cooler temperatures mean a chance to catch up on caring for crops and animals without the oppressive heat. For families, it has meant more time to enjoy the outdoors together and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. For everyone, it has been a moment to pause and give thanks for the blessing of relief.

This shift in the weather also reminds us of the seasons of life. Just as the heat seemed endless, our own struggles can often feel overwhelming. Yet, as God brought cooler days and renewal to our community, he also promises to bring renewal to our hearts when we turn to him. In times of difficulty, we can hold on to the assurance that God will bring refreshment and restoration in his perfect timing. So as we enjoy these cooler days, let us give thanks to the Lord for his mercy and care. Let us also remember to pray for one another, especially for our farmers who continue their hard work to sustain us, and for those still struggling to find refreshment in their own lives.

May this season of relief remind us that God is always near, turning even the driest and hottest moments into opportunities for his grace to shine. Let us always look to him, trusting in his promise to provide springs of water in the desert.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor David Viles



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Caroline Barker
 2 Rory Tierney
 3 Jamie Bunch
 3 Connie Miller
 4 Marie Scheperle
 6 Karahlyne Olsen
 7 Garrett Collins
 7 Scott Soell
 12 Desmond Pascoe
 13 Cynthia Loesch
 13 Anna Stubinger
 14 Laura FrasherTuttle
 14 Kinlee Richart
 14 Gina Prosch
 15 Ruth Stubinger
 16 Scott Brandt
 16 Cory Strobel
 16 Jacklyn Wood
 16 Wesley Hanks
 17 Jacob Meller
 18 McCoy Pistel
 24 Joan Stubinger
 29 Clayton Meyer
 30 Ashley Heidbreder
 30 Irlee Linhardt
 30 Paige Olsen
 30 Ada Enowski

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
AUGUST 03	91 / 273	\$ 3,120.00
AUGUST 10	57 / 252	\$ 3,285.53
AUGUST 17	71 / 297	\$ 2,917.50
AUGUST 24	84 / 253	\$ 2,293.00
AUGUST 31	Reported next	Month

Additional Income:

The Pastor's Prius had a work out delivering the Back to School Buddy Pack Items. Thank you for your great generosity, you are the best congregation. Tissue Boxes: 74 Paper Towels: 54 Notebooks 185 Additional: 2 packs of lined paper and 1 box of Thrivent shirts. Again, you made a difference for many children.



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY

1 Ron & Shirley Loesch 1973
 8 Ryan & AJ Ferrell 2018
 10 Gary & Carol Elliott 1967
 14 Mark & Misty Schroeder 2002
 18 David & Patricia Russell 1976
 23 Noah & Tressa Stubinger 2023
 25 Adam & Paige Grunden 2023
 27 Garrett & Kenzie Hager 2019
 28 Cyrus & Kelsey Meller 2019



Congregational Meeting: We will have a meeting of the congregation on Sunday, September 7, 2025 to vote on approving funds from the General Fund to replace the A/C unit in the Fellowship Hall that is no longer working.

Audrey Bunch: St. Paul's Lutheran Perpetual Cemetery Fund, Inc. will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, September 21st at 1 p.m. in church Friendship Hall.

Continued prayers for: Ed Pennell, his family and father Roger Pennell, Glenda Hake, Curt Bracher, Stacy McNamer, Don Buchta, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

Congregational Council Meeting, August 11, 2025

- † At 6:02 pm the regular monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of St. Paul's ELCA, Lohman, Missouri was called into session by Council President Zola Finch.
The council members present were Debbie Raithel, Gus Fischer, Zola Finch, Pastor David, Debi Berry, Michelle Collins and Kent Nelson. Those not in attendance were Ashleigh Hillen, Dan Tschirgi, Misty Schroeder, and A.J. Ferrell.
The meeting was started with a prayer by Pastor David Viles.
- † A motion was made by Debi Berry and seconded by Gus Fischer to correct the June minutes to reflect that the motion to order envelopes was approved by the quorum of majority with one Nay.
- † The President requested approval of the previous Council minutes; this was done upon a motion by Debi Berry, seconded by Kent Nelson and approved by all.
- † **Church Treasurer's report** provided by Michelle Collins was presented. July 31, 2025 financial statements show YTD the church has income over expenses of \$16,964.88 and are tracking in line with the budget. The church has over 12 months of cash in reserves which exceeds the not-for-profit standard of a minimum of six months. The church is financially healthy. The Church earned interest on the CD this month of \$684.00.
The Church received a donation of \$20,000, with \$10,000 going to the cemetery fund and \$10,000 going to the Church in the General Income account. The donation was made by Gertrude Vieth. A discussion was held regarding requested donations. A motion was made by Debbie Raithel to donate on Mission Sunday to Central and NE Missouri food pantry and seconded by Gus Fischer. Approved by quorum. A motion was made by Debbie Raithel and seconded by Kent Nelson to approve the treasurer's report. Approved by all.
- † Pastor attended 6 meetings. He had 7 visits and answered text messages and phone calls daily, personal conversations, prayers. Activities were varied (12). Assisted with 4th of July event, held on the 6th. Vacation Bible School Monday and Wednesday. Played Jonah and Daniel. Assisted with installation of a new laptop for a church member. Worked with Woodman getting air conditioning fixed in the sanctuary. Assisted with moving new furniture into parsonage. Attended 1 birthday party, judged a photography contest at the JC fair, attended a family reunion and accepted a donation for the church and the cemetery from Gertrude Vieth. Creation of August Epistle and emailed. Converted bulletin format and set up each Sunday for screens. Updated website with service videos. Updated calendar for basement events.
Held 2 noncommunion services and 2 communion services.

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

Evangelism: Misty Schroeder reported (in written copy) the Evangelism report. They will be hosting family day September 7th with a potluck luncheon in lieu of fellowship hour, after Church. Games and activities will be available after Church is over and continue after lunch. Plateware, meat, and drinks will be provided. All are welcome and we will be extending the invitation to all Russellville churches that participated in VBS with us. They welcome any ideas for new and traditional games and activities. This is also Grandparents Day so we will be trying to do something to honor them.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi reported (by written copy) on technology. The sanctuary monitors are working very well. People still use the printed copies of the bulletin. If people request a copy, then they can have a copy.

Worship & Music: Ashleigh Hillen presented her report in writing. It was reported that 7 members attended the August 4th meeting. Blessing of the backpacks was scheduled for August 17th. The annual Thank Offering was discussed and scheduled for Sunday, November 16th. Bell Choir and Adult

Choir will resume in September. Advent Supper is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th. Ashleigh Hillen is stepping down as chair. NEXT MEETING is September 2nd at 9 am.

Parish Education: A.J. Ferrell reported by email. Sunday School – returns to the 1st Sunday and 3rd Sundays beginning in September. They are still working on the dates for the Christmas Program. No updates on the playground.

Church Improvement: Kent Nelson was present and reported that the parsonage downstairs air conditioning is not working. He is working on getting a contractor to come. The plexiglass over the front stained-glass window fell out. We need to replace it to protect the wood. Suggested replacing them all so that they match. Roger Pennell is working on an estimate. Kent will continue to follow up. Fall cleanup will be in September or October but not before the family day. Trash can area was discussed.

Stewardship/Finance: Gus Fischer reported that the envelopes were ordered. Debi Berry volunteered to assist him with anything he needs done.

Mutual Ministry: Debbie Raithel reported that they are still gathering furniture and furnishings for the parsonage. Gas stove is in and working. Kent has volunteered to donate a TV. Cleaning company is excellent. Pest control company is coming two times a year. Parsonage is ready to use for church meetings or community needs.

Old Business: A change to the June minutes was requested and is shown completed above.

New Business: Debi Berry has requested an update on the directories. Pastor is working on the last four pages that he has to complete.

Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer.

At 7:09 pm. Kent Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Debi Berry. Motion was approved by all. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 8th, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the parsonage.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Debi Berry

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

There were 34 STARS in attendance at our August 20 meeting plus service dogs Ginger and Witten. After a delicious lunch of pork chops and chicken we enjoyed a very interesting program given by Tom Hutchinson, Head Trainer/Liaison for K9s On The Front Line. He shared history of his military service and struggles with physical injuries and emotional challenges following his discharge and the wonderful support he received from his service dog.



Our next meeting is scheduled for September 17 and our speaker will be Melinda Jennings, Director of Development for the Salvation Army. This organization is working to expand their services to care for the needs of an increased homeless population in Jefferson City. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 or 694-3634 by Monday evening, September 15.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Eight Margaret Circle ladies enjoyed the cool comfort of our church's Fellowship Hall as we gathered for our meeting on Tuesday evening, August 5th. Kathryn Linsenbardt served a delicious, light and creamy dessert, topped with strawberries and blueberries, perfect for a warm, summer evening. Kay Pascoe led us in a study of the Lord's Prayer, with particular attention to the meaning of the words "trespasses and debts." She cited a number of biblical references in which Jesus teaches his followers this prayer, an integral part of Lutheran worship. We reviewed our benevolences and agreed to send the evening's offering to the Samaritan Center. Our next meeting will be held at the church on Tuesday, October 7th. Donita Stubinger will host and Helen Girard will lead us in Bible study. Looking ahead, we noted that our December meeting will be held at the home of Debbie Boyce on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. We thank God for the joy and privilege of being a part of this warm and caring group of women.

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

September is here and so it is time for our gruppe to begin a new season. We will meet on Monday evening, September 8, for dinner at 5:30 followed by a number of work details. Donita has again consented to cater and we are thankful for her services. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Jeannette at 782-4594 by 9 PM on Sunday, September 7.



COMING SOON

CHILI SUPPER



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Featuring:
Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Sandwiches
Pies and Cakes Country Store – Crafts
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Lohman, MO





The Annual St. Paul's Chili Supper will be held on Sunday, October 5, with serving from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Please note the change in the serving times for this year. We will need items for the Country Store which includes fresh vegetables, canned items, baked goods, handiwork and craft items. Also work schedules and donation listings will be handed out soon. **If you will not be available to work or donate items, please contact Misty as soon as possible to let her know.** It takes our whole church family working together to make the Chili Supper a success. Invite your friends and neighbors to come and eat on Sunday, October 5th.

FLU SHOT CLINIC AT ST. PAUL'S - OCTOBER 15, 2023

Flu season is just around the corner! The CDC recommends everyone six months and older get an annual flu vaccine. Why is this important? An annual flu shot is the best way to protect against flu and its potentially serious complications. Flu vaccination has been shown to reduce the risk of getting sick with flu and also to reduce the risk of more serious flu outcomes that can result in hospitalization or even death.

St. Paul's flu shot clinic will take place in conjunction with STARS on Wednesday, October 15th. Registered nurses from the Cole County Health Department will be at St. Paul's from 11:30 AM until 12:30 PM. You will need your Medicare, Medicare Advantage or other health insurance card. Regular and high dose vaccines will be available. Let Erika Gerth (erikagerth329@gmail.com) know that you would like to receive your flu shot on October 15th and she will provide the appropriate form for you to complete in advance of the event. You don't have to be a STARS regular, or even a senior, to take advantage of this opportunity!

Mobile Food Pantry: The August 12th Mobile Food Pantry Truck served 112 families with 303 people. This community wide event was held at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot in Russellville. Some of the items given were produce boxes containing: cucumbers, eggs, egg plants, onions, peppers, tomatoes, and zucchini. Other items apple juice, canned chicken, canned beans and corn, cereal, frozen corn on the cob, Lipton tea ready to drink, marshmallows, fresh mushrooms, and strawberries. Bags of snacks from the Methodist Church. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran was Rosemary Heidbreder, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next mobile food pantry truck will be September 9th at 1:00 P.M.

Debi Berry is thankful for St. Paul's Church family, for the love and support she received after breaking her lower lumbar. The words of comfort, food, cards, texts, and phone calls, were truly appreciated! Also, thank you for the offers to help me after my knee revision surgery.

Children's Sunday School: Sunday school returns to twice a month on the first and third Sunday. September 7th begins our first class and then again on September 21st. Bring your kids, your grandkids, and the neighbor's kids and grandkids.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger

St Paul's Jr. Lutherans met at the home of Chris & Elizabeth Russell on Sunday, afternoon August 17, 2025 at 2.00pm in the afternoon to enjoy a fun filled day of swimming and jumping into the pool. We graciously appreciate their hospitality inviting us to enjoy their beautiful pool and reception area. Thanks to Trish and David Russell for bringing sandwiches for everyone to enjoy along with cookies, drinks and fruit from Misty Schroeder. We had 30 attending along with parents and grandparents. Our next gathering will be Family Day at church right after Sunday School, on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025. Bring your parents, grandparents, friends and family for a fun filled afternoon with a potluck Luncheon.



St. Paul's Women of the ELCA will host the Mid-Missouri Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 27 beginning at 9:00 a.m. with registration (\$5.00) and refreshments. The actual meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. The theme this year is "Vessels of God's Grace" based on the Bible verse of Ephesians 2:8; "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."



There will be an opening devotion, group singing, and the Bible Study will be presented by Pastor David. Following will be a business meeting, including an update on the Central States Synod Women's Organization. A delicious lunch is being prepared. The afternoon program will be presented by the guest speaker, Libby Hafley from the Rape and Abuse Crisis Service, Jefferson City. In-Kind gifts for RACS include paper towels, laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and monetary gifts are also appreciated. We will gather these donated items at St. Paul's Church on or before September 27. Contributions can be

made to: Lynn Starr Educational Scholarship Fund and to Katie's Fund. All checks should be made out to "St. Paul's Lutheran WELCA." This should prove to be a very delightful day. Ladies, please consider coming for a day or part of the day.

Parking Lot Stripping: A huge shout out and thank you to Kendall & Hope and Madeline Stubinger for the great job they did re-stripping the front and back parking lots on Sunday, August 24, 2025. They did an amazing job, and Madeline made sure the stripes were straight and the curb painted.



Join the Choir:

The choir is open for anyone to join that loves to sing. Occasionally we may have a small group sing. Also, if you play an instrument and would like to play for church, we welcome that as well.



Calendar of Events and Schedules

September 2nd, Tuesday: Worship and Music meeting in Church Friendship Hall at 9:00 a.m.
September 7th, Sunday: Family Day at St. Paul's after worship. Invite everyone you know.
September 7th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School.
September 8th, Monday: Freundschaft Gruppe will meet in the Basement at 5:30 p.m.
September 8th, Monday: Church Council will meet at the Parsonage at 6:00 p.m.
September 9th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.
September 10th, Wednesday: Craft group meets in the basement at 7:00 p.m.
September 16th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.
September 17th, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Salvation Army presentaton.
September 17th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at the Parsonage at 5:30 p.m.
September 21st, Sunday: Children's Sunday School
September 21st, Sunday: St. Paul's Lutheran Perpetual Cemetery Fund, Inc. Meeting 1:00 p.m.
September 24th, Wednesday: Epistle News Deadline, please have all articles in as soon as possible.
September 27th, Saturday: WELCA Mid-Missouri Fall Gathering, 9am Registration, 10am to start.
 Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays. Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

Council Schedule

Sept. – 07	Kent Nelson
Sept. – 14	Debi Berry
Sept. – 21	Gus Fischer
Sept. – 28	AJ Ferrell

Greeters Schedule

Sept. – 07	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Sept. – 14	Audrey Bunch	Jerry Koestner
Sept. – 21	David Russell	Trish Russell
Sept. – 28	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle

Acolyte Schedule

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

Readers Schedule

Sept. – 07	Jana Thompson
Sept. – 14	Frank Pascoe
Sept. – 21	Lori Meyer
Sept. – 28	Sherrie Hanks

Song Leader

Sept. – 07	Kathy Meller
Sept. – 14	Dan Tschirgi
Sept. – 21	Dan Tschirgi
Sept. – 28	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

Sept. – 07	Dan Tschirgi
Sept. – 14	Roger Pennell
Sept. – 21	Roger Pennell
Sept. – 28	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

Sept. – 07	Zola Finch
Sept. – 14	Kathy Meller
Sept. – 21	Zola Finch
Sept. – 28	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Mark and Kathy Meller

Communion Assistants

Sept. – 14	Rosemary Heidbreder
Sept. – 28	Devin Koestner

Altar Flowers for the Month

Julie Nelson

* Communion Days noted in Yellow