

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 68 No. 5

May - 2024

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Pastor's Message

Penetcost May 19, 2024 You are called to testify

Jesus said, "But when the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning," *John 15:26-27*

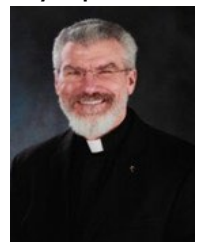
In the stillness of an upper room, where whispers of anticipation mingled with the soft glow of oil lamps, the disciples gathered. Their hearts, heavy with recent events, sought comfort in each

other's company. As they huddled together, Jesus spoke of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who would descend upon them, breathing life into their weary souls. He said the Advocate would come and testify about him, and they too must testify of all they had witnessed as his disciples.

In the stillness of that moment, they felt the stirrings of anticipation, knowing that the Spirit's arrival would bring a new chapter in their journey. They were to become witnesses, bearing testimony to the transformative power of Christ's love. Then came the day of Pentecost, when the heavens opened, and the promised Spirit descended like tongues of fire, enveloping each disciple in a divine embrace. With hearts ablaze, they were filled with a zeal, their voices lifted in praise and proclamation. Empowered by the Spirit, they ran out into the streets, no longer constrained by fear or doubt. With clarity of purpose, they boldly declared the wonders of God, each word a testament to the grace that had transformed their lives.

In the days that followed, they journeyed far and wide, carrying the message of hope to the ends of the earth. Through persecution and hardship, they remained steadfast, their unwavering faith a beacon in a world shrouded in darkness. Today as disciples of Christ, we are called to follow in their footsteps, to bear witness to the truth that has set us free. Like the disciples of old, we are tasked with sharing the good news, not with eloquent words, but with lives transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as the Spirit testified about Jesus, so too must we testify, for we have been called to be his witnesses in a world desperate for redemption. And as we yield to the guiding influence of the Spirit, we find ourselves swept up in the divine drama of redemption, our lives becoming a living testament to the love that knows no bounds.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
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
- 23 Ruth Strobel
- 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
<i>APRIL 07</i>	<i>120 / 143</i>	<i>\$ 4,421.62</i>
<i>APRIL 14</i>	<i>70 / 111</i>	<i>\$1,609.00</i>
<i>APRIL 21</i>	<i>100 / 119</i>	<i>\$ 2,075.00</i>
<i>APRIL 28</i>	<i>56 / 124</i>	<i>\$ 1,421.00</i>

Additional Income:

- Epistle Postage** \$ 25.00
- Memorial Carpet Fund** \$ 30.00

Special Thanks to Doug & Julie Carel: \$2,000.00

\$500.00 designated to Sunday School Petty Cash
 \$1,500.00 for Sanctuary Screens that lay flat against wall when not in use.

Cemetery Clean-up has been scheduled for May 11th beginning at 8:00 am. Please come out and help make St. Paul's cemetery look nice. A recent storm on April 26, 2024 broke a large limb from a tree damaging some head stones. This and other work needs to be done to make our Cemetery beautiful.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------|
| 1 | Kent & Julie Nelson | 1993 |
| 6 | Denny & Lori Linhardt | 2000 |
| 10 | Kris & Laura Tuttle | 2015 |
| 15 | Gus & Jeannette Fischer | 1960 |
| 16 | Scott & Kelly Grunden | 1992 |
| 19 | Chris & Elizabeth Russell | 2001 |
| 22 | Marshall & Julie Griffin | 2009 |
| 23 | Conor & Angela Tierney | 2015 |
| 23 | Dan & Kim Tschirgi | 1987 |
| 23 | Chase & Riley Pistel | 2020 |
| 25 | Colin & Ruthann Woehrer | 1968 |
| 31 | Bill & Erika Gerth | 1960 |



Continued prayers for:

Richard Heidbreder, Debbie Boyce, Don Buchta, Jerry Koestner, Royal & Evelyn Speidel, Donna Viles, Julie Carel, Cecil Knernschild.

Thank you! To all the church family for sending cards, phone calls and best wishes during my recent knee surgery. It was greatly appreciated. I'm well on my way to recovery. Glen Stubinger

Babies, Babies, Babies, Babies... Be Still My Heart

CONGRATULATIONS SOELL FAMILY

Cory Vane Soell was born on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. He is the son of Scott and Vanessa Soell. He weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Sisters and brother are excited and joyful for this sweet sibling.



CONGRATULATIONS BARKER FAMILY

Carla Louise Barker was born on Thursday, April 25, 2024. She is the daughter of Wendy and Matt Barker. She weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long. Caroline is over the moon happy she has her baby sister.



A Double Header Baptism

Pastor David was blessed, honored, and thrilled to baptize Huxton Rhett Rhodes, son of Abby and Dawson Rhodes and Steven Loki Dunlap, son of Kaylin and Steven Dunlap on Sunday, April 21, 2024. Thank you Lord for the Blessing of these beautiful children.



Congregational Council Meeting, April 8, 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, A.J. Ferrell, Stacy Bubach, Jana Thompson, Misty Schroeder, Devin Koestner, Ashleigh Hillen and Frank Pascoe. Also present were Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe and Pastor David Viles, and parishioner Jason Wood, chair of St. Paul's Safety & Security Team.

† The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Viles. The President requested approval of the previous Council minutes of March 11th. This was accomplished upon a motion offered by Kent Nelson, seconded by Jana Thompson and agreed by all. The President requested Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe present the details of the Church's current financial position. The Treasurer presented a four-page Statement of Financial Position, dated March 31, 2024. The statement showed total liabilities and net assets of \$314,549.66; dedicated accounts ending balance of \$33,563.13; and current month income a positive \$3,524.08 over monthly expenses. The President requested approval of the Treasurer's report which was approved upon a motion offered by Misty Schroeder, and seconded by Stacy Bubach. The Treasurer noted that two December cheques to the local school district had not been cashed. Council member Misty Schroeder said she had delivered the cheques and would inquire as to why they have not been cashed.

† At this point, President Finch requested Council guest, Jason Wood, to address the Council regarding his and President Finch's recent discussions concerning St. Paul's safety and security measures. Much discussion followed about the best way to approach security for the church and the church council will continue to discuss and investigate methods for trying to keep our congregation safe during services.

† President Finch requested Pastor Viles present his monthly summary of recent activities. His report detailed no request for mileage, noted eight monthly meetings, including Freundschaft, Lions Club, Lohman City Council, S.T.A.R.S., and area Ministerial Alliance. Pastor detailed numerous meetings, including those for upcoming baptisms, weddings, and personal meetings, as well as conversations and prayers with our parishioners and others. Pastor changed the Carillion song selections, attended Spring Clean-Up, prepared bulletins, updated the Church's website, posted daily Facebook photos and messages, and created and e-mailed the April Epistle. Pastor's services for March were numerous, including three Wednesday night Lenten services, one Maundy Thursday service with Communion, one Good Friday service, three Communion Sunday Services in-person and online, and three non-communion Sunday services in-person and online. In all, a very busy March 2024.

President Finch requested the Council member's committee reports and activities:

Evangelism: Misty Schroeder reported on a very successful breakfast following the early Easter Morning Sunrise Service at St. Paul's on March 31st. She thanked our members who prepared the event. She also did the same for those who prepared the April 7th pancake breakfast, which was also well attended. A total of \$2,195.00 was taken in before expenses. Misty said she was contemplating the preparation of a spaghetti supper for the church's youth in the future.

Technology: Devin Koestner reported that the Will West business has yet to inform him of the details of the proposed screens for the sanctuary, on their sizes and locations. There was a brief discussion on the problems with Facebook's live presentation of our service. Other issues under discussion are YouTube utilization for our services, and the issue of using music not authorized for live services.

Parish Education: A.J. Ferrell reported on the very entertaining Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning which was well attended by our children and well supplied with the colorful eggs. A.J. reported that the month of June will be a vacation time for the children and youth. There will be Sunday School classes on the 1st and 3d Sundays in August. Vacation Bible School will be held in July. A.J. will begin thinking about resuming the annual Christmas program for the children.

Worship & Music: The Council welcomed new Council member Ashleigh Hillen, who will chair this Committee in the future after the departure of Kathy Meller. Ashleigh is becoming familiar with the monthly hymn selection process and other committee activities.

Church Improvement: Chair Kent Nelson reported that 14 parishioners turned out to work on the church yards on Clean-up Day. Special thanks and appreciation were expressed for the members who prepared the great breakfast for the workers. Kent said he would contact a local sign company to repair or replace the neon cross on the front of the church. The refrigerator now seems to be working. The next item of work will focus on the sanctuary ceiling fans, especially the one near the pulpit which malfunctions. Kent reported that three trees on parish grounds need to come down due to recent wind and fungus damage. He is also looking into recent power overloads and outages which interfered with the piano keyboard music on a recent Sunday.

Stewardship & Finance: Chair Stacy Bubach reported no recent meeting.

Mutual Ministry: Chair Jana Thompson reported no recent meeting.

Old Business: President Finch reported that our Independence Day celebration will take place on Sunday Evening of June 30th. The regular participation of Lohman Lions Club and ice-cream man Doug Starr is expected. The WELCA members will do their usual food treats.

New Business: President Finch will re-work and republish the Council and members work/participation calendar to reflect our new Council changes. Devin Koestner reported some concerns expressed about the flowers in the church yard between the parsonage and the sanctuary. Some of the artificial flowers need to be replaced with real and fresh plants. He volunteered to look into solutions to making needed changes to this area.

There being no further business, the President requested a motion to adjourn. Kent Nelson proposed the motion, seconded by Frank Pascoe and passed via voice.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

Twenty STARS attended our April meeting. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch of sub-sandwiches and an amazing array of side dishes. We then entertained ourselves with a Bingo Party planned and organized by Audrey Bunch. The prizes were plentiful and interesting. May 15 will be our next meeting and we are excited to have Jeremy Amick as our guest speaker. He will share stories of recent interviews and offer books for sale. Plan to attend and invite a friend or neighbor. Our menu entree will be lasagna and if you would like to volunteer to bring a pan of lasagna, tell Rose when you call to make reservations at 782-4553.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The Mobile Food Truck was held April 9th in Trinity Lutheran parking lot in Russellville, we had good Spring weather. Served 150 families with 404 people in those families. Some of the items given out: produce boxes containing apples, lettuce mixes, milk, potatoes, salad kits, yogurt, canned green beans, canned corn, loaves of bread, dog food, refrigerated pizza crust or crescent rolls, orange juice, eggs, and frozen ham. The boy scouts had collected food and that was given out also. Thanks to all the volunteers. Volunteers from Lohman Lions club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile May 14th at 1:00 P.M.

WELCA MID-MISSOURI SPRING GATHERING - Erika Gerth



The WELCA Mid-Missouri Spring Gathering was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church Saturday, April 27, 2024, right here in Jefferson City, making it super easy for Donita Stubinger, Marie Scheperle, Kathryn Linsenbardt, Audrey Bunch and Erika Gerth to participate, along with women from nine sister congregations in the Osage Cluster. We were greeted with a wonderful assortment of baked goods, fresh fruit, and beverages, prepared by the women of the host church. Gloria Sharp, president of the Central States WELCA and also a member of Our Savior's, greeted us warmly. Our own Marie Scheperle led the group in the first of two Sing-A-Longs including Morning Has Broken, Borning Cry and Shine, Jesus, Shine. Pastor Scott Musselman, Our Savior's J.C., led the Bible study based on Matthew 6:25-34, the familiar

text in which Jesus, tells us, among other things, not to worry. In concluding the study, each person was invited to write a specific worry on a piece of paper, place it in the offering plate and surrender it to God's care.

What is a gathering if it doesn't include a business meeting and this one was no different! We were updated on the re-organization of the Central States Synod Women of the ELCA, which is now divided into five Clusters instead of twelve. St. Paul's belongs to the Osage Cluster. The Central States Synod Convention will take place every two years, instead of annually. In the off-years, the five Clusters will hold their own meetings, and on the national level, the Women of the ELCA will continue to convene every three years. Confusing? Yes, indeed, but stay tuned: we will keep you posted on upcoming events!

Having diligently worked hard throughout the morning, participating in the Bible study, keeping track of all the administrative changes, and other matters of importance, we were rewarded with a delicious lunch, featuring a variety of scrumptious salads and numerous desserts, all lovingly prepared by our host church.

One of the joys of attending these Gatherings is the opportunity to learn about agencies which improve the lives of children and adults in the host church's community. We were privileged to hear Hannah Pond, Youth Advocate for HALO Jefferson City, share information about this vital program which addresses the needs of homeless girls. Yes, there are girls right here in Jefferson City who have no place to call home. They couch hop from one place to another, sometimes sleep in their car, if they have one, until they are referred by a counselor or friend to the HALO House for Girls. Here they find not only a safe place to live but receive services to help rebuild their lives. Currently there are 15 girls,

ages 16-20, at HALO House. They go to school and have jobs; they engage in therapeutic art activities, enjoy activities with a host of volunteers and together with HALO House staff, build a sense of community.

Understanding that God's work requires financial support, an offering was received from the individual attendees and from their units. St. Paul's WELCA contributed \$200.00 of the \$977.00 which was received. Half of that amount will be sent to the Central States Women of the ELCA and the remaining half will be divided equally between HALO, Jefferson City Center, and the Central States Synod educational fund.

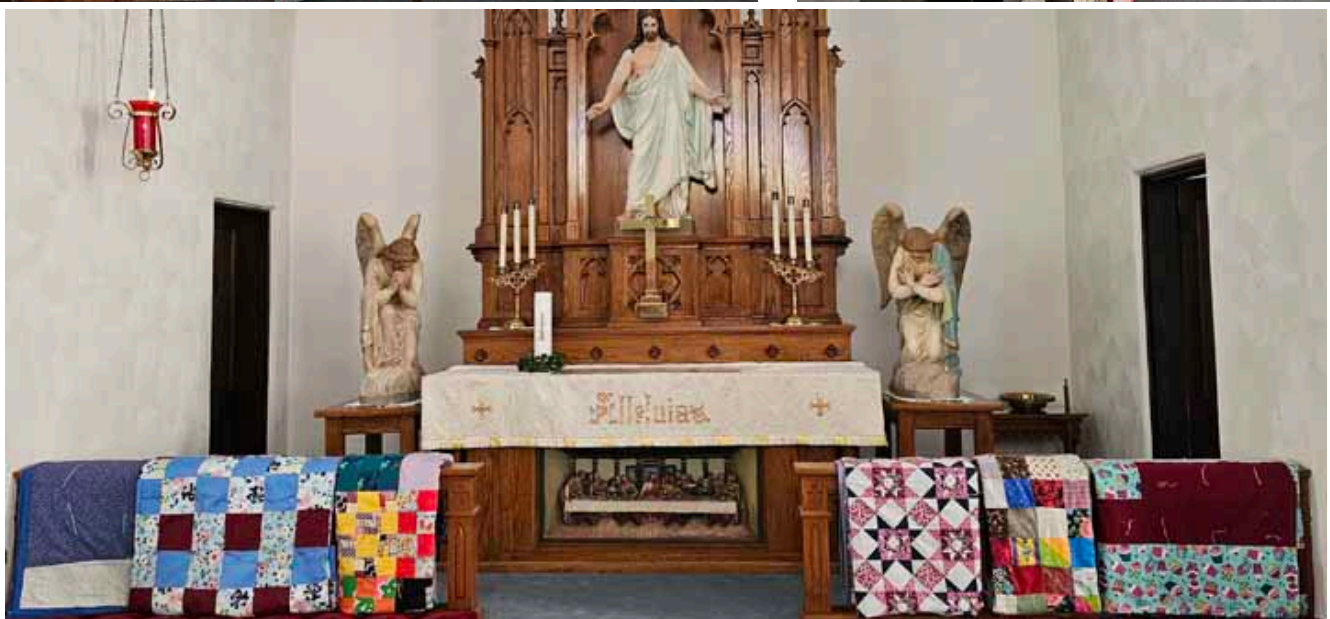
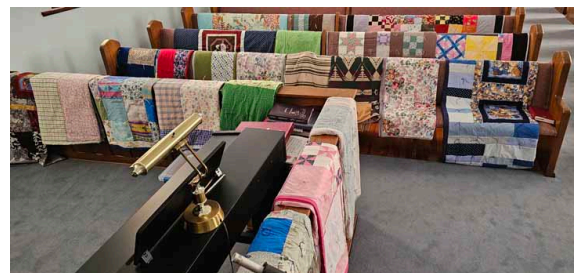
Finally, St. Paul's women are invited to join the women from the entire Osage Cluster on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at St. Paul's, Cole Camp. It will be a joyous occasion. Plan to attend!

Freundschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

There were 16 in attendance at our April meeting and we had a busy evening. After Glen and Donita served us a delicious dinner, we got to work. We had some catch-up cleaning and sorting from the pancake breakfast and then we carried all our finished quilts upstairs and arranged them at the altar and on the front pews. After a few Sundays of display, we will pack and label them for shipment to Lutheran World Relief. As usual, our gruppe will now be in recess until September. Thanks to all who attended this past year and helped with so many chores.

Blessing of the Quilts

Each year our the ladies of our congregation gather in the basement to cut, piece, sew and complete many quilts. After they are finished, the quilts are displayed in the Sanctuary and Pastor David holds a Blessings of the Quilts service. This year on April 14, 2024, we gathered to bless 36 Quilts and had help from the children laying hands on them. It was a great time and they will go to bless many people in need of warmth, shade, and comfort.



SAVE THE DATE

**Russellville/Lohman Fire Protection
District Auxiliary**



**Saturday, May 18, 2024
Eagle Stop @
Intersection of C & D Highway
Lohman, MO**

Serving starts at 10:00 a.m.

■ Brats ■ Pork Steak ■ Pulled Pork ■

Dinner includes two sides and drink.
Sides: potato salad, baked beans, chips



Thank you for your support!



Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Margaret Circle members enjoyed an evening of fellowship, refreshments, Bible study and stimulating conversation at its April meeting held at St. Paul's on 2 April 2024. Kay Pascoe presented a very moving Bible study with a focus on what Jesus' disciples did after his resurrection. What were their experiences? What were their feelings? Were they afraid? How would we have felt? What would we have done? Thank you, Kay, for such a thoughtful study! Using the offering from each meeting wisely on local, national and international projects is very important to this group. At a previous meeting we learned about Rape and Abuse Crisis Services's need for mattresses for their clients as they are ready to move out of the shelter into their own apartments. Through Kay Pascoe's research we learned that RACS and the Salvation Army wrote a joint community grant to fund this project. As a result, these agencies partner with JC Mattress who provides a frame, box spring and a twin mattress for \$200.00

to clients of these two agencies. Being fully informed, Margaret Circle elected to send \$200.00 to RACS in support of this project. Mobility Worldwide continues to do amazing work in constructing and sending mobility carts to partner agencies who distribute them to persons in need. Lives are transformed when recipients have the means to move about more freely, thereby being able to provide a living for themselves and their families. Margaret Circle voted to donate \$200.00 toward the construction of a mobility cart. Margaret Circle's next meeting will be the annual salad supper, hosted by Kay Pascoe at her home on Tuesday, 4 June 2024! In addition to our regular meeting agenda, we will enjoy salads prepared by the attendees and stimulating conversation, a staple of this group! Want to know more about Margaret Circle? Contact Erika Gerth at (573) 635-6681 or erikagerth329@gmail.com.

Children's Sunday School: AJ Ferrell & Wendy Barker: There will be Sunday School twice monthly beginning in August, with no Sunday School in June. Current attendance is up and all the kids are enjoying Sunday school, and so are the teachers. Invite your children's friends to come along with them to church so they also can experience God's love and have fun at Sunday School.





Bell Choir: The Children will perform "Amazing Grace" the first Sunday of May. Come out and enjoy this enthusiastic group of Bell Ringers. It is always a joy to watch these kids ringing their bells with all their heart.



Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger:

If you came to the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, you noticed the Jr. Lutherans and Youth Group assisting and cleaning up. Our younger members are great at helping with all our projects here at St. Paul's, so we want to say THANK YOU to all our younger members for lending a helping hand. They did a great job. So if you see them tell them how much you appreciate the good work they did.

Kitchen:

Our Kitchen has a new Pampered Chef 8 quart pans, so we are ready to cook. Thanks to everyone who helped by ordering something out of the book. Patty Duncan donated an 8 quart Pampered Chef kettle and we have 3 more for a total of 4 new pans. Thanks so much to everyone for all your help.

Calendar of Events and Schedules

- May 2nd**, Thursday: National Day of Prayer, area Pastor will be at Russellville Park at 5:30 p.m.
- May 5th**, Sunday: Children’s Bell Ringing, and then Sunday School after the Children’s Sermon.
- May 5th**, Sunday: Fellowship in the basement after worship service.
- May 8th**, Wednesday: Worship and Music Committee will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Friendship Hall.
- May 13th**, Monday: Church Council meeting in Sunday school youth room at 6:00 p.m.
- May 14th**, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.
- May 15th**, Wednesday: STARS meets at 11:30 a.m. Presentation by Jeremy Amick.
- May 15th**, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- May 19th**, Sunday: Pentecost, wear red if you have it. Yes, Chiefs and Cardinal shirts are fine.
- May 21th**, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.
- May 26th**, Sunday: Memorial Service outside following worship service.
- May 26th**, Sunday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.
- May 31st**, Friday: Wedding Rehearsal for Tyler Soell and Katie Rose
- June 1st**, Saturday: Wedding for Tyler Soell and Katie Rose.

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays.

Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

Council Schedule

May – 05	Misty Schroeder
May – 12	Stacy Bubach
May – 19	AJ Ferrell
May – 26	Kent Nelson

Acolyte Schedule

May – 05	Mackenzie Linnenbrink
May – 12	Oliver Stoermer
May – 19	Madeline Stubinger
May – 26	Morgan Schroeder

Greeters Schedule

May – 05	Devin Koestner	Jerry Koestner
May – 12	David Russell	Trish Russell
May – 19	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle
May – 26	Jason Wood	Jacklyn Wood

Readers Schedule

May – 05	Carol Elliott
May – 12	Devin Koestner
May – 19	Jana Thompson
May – 26	Harry Thompson

Song Leader

May – 05	Dan Tschirgi
May – 12	Kathy Meller
May – 19	Dan Tschirgi
May – 26	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

May – 05	Roger Pennell
May – 12	Dan Tschirgi
May – 19	Roger Pennell
May – 26	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

May – 05	Kathy Meller
May – 12	Zola Finch
May – 19	Zola Finch
May – 26	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Jim Loesch & Cynthia Loesch

Communion Assistants

May – 12	Jahanna Koestner
May – 26	Trish Russell

Altar Flowers for the Month

Diane Kalaf

* Communion Days noted in Yellow