

EPIS⁺LE



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

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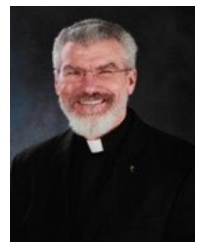
Pastor's Message

Welcome back home.

"let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25"

After three months of summer vacation – working, relaxing, enjoying time with extended family across the country. Jim was home, and home included Sunday mornings at St. Paul's church on the hill. It was good to be home, it was good to be back with his church family. As he walked through the doors, the air conditioning washed over him like a cool embrace. Familiar faces smiled and greeted him in the Narthex, asking about his summer and welcoming him back. Having been gone so long made small talk difficult, but being with these people again felt comfortable in a way he couldn't explain. Stepping into the sanctuary, he spotted a few empty seats near some friends from adult Bible study. They waved him over as he approached, sliding into the pew and exchanging brief hellos. But soon their attention turned forward as the service began, Pastor Viles was welcoming all who had come and was reading the announcements of what was to come and giving thanks for what had been. The hymn of the day lifted Jim's spirit as familiar melodies washed over him. Though he didn't consider himself the most devout, being in this place with these people gave him a sense of peace. Jim felt whole again as he enjoyed the music, the joy that surrounded him and the feel of God in this sacred space. The shared faith of others connected him in a way deeper than friendships he encountered while away. As he listened to the message, Jim found himself struck by the pastor's insights in a way he hadn't while away. Memories of conversations and lessons from this fellowship seemed to come alive again now that he had come home. After the service, Jim lingered in the aisles chatting with his friends. Laughing together about memories and, plans for the coming week. Would he come to adult Bible study? Was he free for lunch this week? Pastor squeezed his shoulder - "Good to have you back, Jim. Missed you over the summer." Simple words, but they meant more than he could say. Walking out of church, Jim smiled to himself. Three months away had been restorative, but coming home, especially to this place, reminded him who he was and how these people were an essential part of his journey. Jim was grateful to call this community, St. Paul's Church, his home.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Viles



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Scott Soell
- 5 Lindsey Plochberger
- 7 Ladine Heidbreder
- 8 Peyton Stubinger
- 9 Julie Griffin
- 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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
JULY 07	86 / 132	\$ 3,454.93
JULY 14	73 / 244	\$ 2,761.00
JULY 21	67 / 215	\$ 1,903.00
JULY 28	72 / N/A	\$ 1,165.00

Clara Louise Barker: Baptized July 27, 2024



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mitchell and Laura Plochberger 2009
- 2 Mike and Diane Kalaf 1975
- 6 Frank and Kay Pascoe 1967
- 9 Larry and Debby Koestner 1969 **55 Yrs**
- 16 Eric and Mary Beth Koestner 2003
- 20 Shawn & Ashleigh Hillen 2022
- 27 Pastor Ed and Carole Merckel 1977
- 27 James Crabtree and Sarah Gordon 2016

Clara Louise Barker was born April 25, 2024 to parents Wendy & Matthew Barker, and big sister Caroline Barker.
 Grandparents: Donald & Becky Weber
 Ralph Barker & Margaret VanDeven.
 Sponsors: Connie & Tony Miller,
 Christie & Bob Murphy.

Congratulations to: Dan and Kim Tschirgi, happy grandparents of Anna Christine Tschirgi, daughter of Price Tschirgi and Eleni Barrows, born on July 11, 2024. Anna was welcomed home by sisters Avery (7 yrs) and Aydia (5 yrs).

Continued prayers for:
 The family Speidel, Debbie Berry, Ellen Strobel, Jerry Koestner, Richard Heidbreder, Don Buchta, Donna Viles, Julie Carel, Cecil Knernschild, Pastor's friend Linda Huff, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

Congregational Council Meeting, July 8, 2024

† It was decided by the Church Council at the June 10th regular Council meeting that no in-person July meeting would be held due to vacations and Vacation Bible School responsibilities. Instead, all Council Chairpersons and Church Treasurer Kay Pascoe and Pastor David Viles would submit a written report of their June 2024 activities. Their individual reports follow.

† **Church Treasurer:** Kay Pascoe presented a summary of the Church's June 2024 financial status and activities. A CD now totaling \$65,231.44 will mature on July 14th and the Farmer's Bank will allow it to be renewed for another nine months at 4.75%. Council recommended it be renewed for the amount stated. Expenses exceeded income in June in the amount of (\$186.12). Stop payments have been signed on two checks written to the Cole-R-1 School District as they appear to be lost, and their total of \$1,000 was placed in a dedicated account. \$957.81 was received for CD interest in June. Total for Assets year to June 2024 are \$301,782.98 The amount in selected dedicated accounts totaled \$34,392.55. The general income for June 2024 was \$11,407.27

† **Pastor Viles:** No mileage summary was reported for June 2024. A number of June meetings were detailed by Pastor Viles, including Lohman Lion's Club, Lohman City Council, S.T.A.R.S., Mutual Ministry, Worship & Music, and Wedding Planning. He assisted a transient and contributed fuel for his automobile; held a post-surgery phone visit with David Russell, hospital visit with Ellen Strobel, numerous phone and personal visits with parishioners. He performed a wedding for Tyler Soell and Katie Rose on June 1st.; held funeral/memorial service for Pat Collins on June 8th; prepared worship bulletins, updated Church's website; created July Epistle and emailed it. He presided over 2 Communion Sunday Worship services, and 3 Non-communion Sunday worship services, and one Communion Funeral service, in-person and on-line.

Evangelism: The Church's Fourth of July celebration went very well. The current focus of the Committee is planning for the Social Sunday to be held on an August Sunday. More details about this event will be shared with the Council at the August meeting on August 12th.

Technology: Chairperson Devin Koestner: There was no report from Technology.

Worship & Music: There was no report from Worship & Music.

Parish Education: Chairperson A.J. Ferrell reported Sunday School resumed on July 7th. The children studied the gospel lesson, re-stocked the little Library outside, and had fun playing in the Church's playground. Our Church had thirteen children who attended the Vacation Bible School at Trinity Church, Russellville. We are most grateful to our President, Zola Finch, who paid for our attendees this year. August 2024 begins two Sundays for Sunday School, August 4th and 18th. Questions: should the Blessing Box continued to be called the Blessing Box, or perhaps change its name.

Church Improvement: Chairperson Kent Nelson reported members are working to obtain tree removal services to determine if removal is practical for the two trees by the parsonage and for one tree down the Church hill by the power lines. A new security light is needed to be installed over the Church's side door to replace the fallen light. The Committee will decide on a date for fall clean-Up day soon.

Stewardship & Finance: Chairperson Stacy Bubach reported there was no Committee meeting.

Mutual Ministry: Chairperson Jana Thompson: The Mutual Ministry Committee met on Wednesday, June 19th at 5:30 p.m. Four members were present. Pastor Viles offered a prayer. The 4th of July activities were briefly discussed. Roger Pennell and Misty Schroeder will meet and plan for car parking issues. Sanctuary screens were again discussed. The time frame for their installation and the need for

additional people to operate the screens was discussed. The Church's need for a replacement for the Church Treasurer was discussed as Kay Pascoe's retirement approaches. Live streaming of the children's sermon and their performance of the bell choir during services and concern for youth safety was discussed. Chairperson Jana Thompson volunteered to coordinate the changes planned for the Blessing Box. She will be happy to oversee the collection of the children's books to be collected. Pastor Viles discussed with the committee some information concerning the Safety & Security Committee. The current leader has stepped away and thus the committee is without a chairperson. Pastor has rewritten the church's security and safety policies for insurance purposes and the current committee will review their policies and work to set up a schedule that is workable for those still on the committee. Those present at the Mutual Ministry meeting discussed the trees that need to be removed from the Church's surrounding areas. Debbie Boyce gave Pastor Viles a number for a tree service that her family had used to give to Kent Nelson Chair of Church Improvement.

New items discussed included the Church's upcoming celebration of the 100-year anniversary on Reformation Day and the committee members needed to plan and present the program for that celebration. It was mentioned that Patty Ott of St. John's Church, Stringtown might have information on the history of the rebuilding of our church. There was brief discussion of the issues concerning the collection of the Sunday offering envelopes. Many parishioners are currently giving online, but collecting the offering is a usual part of the traditional service and would be missed by some people. More discussion and feedback from members needs to take place before a decision is made. It was brought up that the Technology Committee needs additional members. Bible School was discussed. Is there a need for background checks for those assisting with Bible School? Anna Wise will be contacted to see if this is needed. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting date is July 17th.

Old Business: None

New Business: Pastor Viles announced to the Council members the receipt of a gift to St. Paul's Cemetery Fund of \$4,000 by the administrator of the estate of Marie L. Fischer, our parishioner who passed away January 19, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Pascoe, Council Secretary.

STARS: Jeannette Fischer / Erika Gerth: Our July meeting was very informative as Molly Baker, Lead Zoonotic Epidemiologist from the Missouri Health Department described various tick diseases and how we can identify, protect and treat ourselves. We enjoyed a picnic style lunch with hot dogs grilled to perfection by our chief griller, Gary Bunch. There were 36 in attendance. Our next meeting will be August 21, and our program will provide information about Coyote Hill Foster Care Ministries: A Safe Place to be a Child, the recipient of this year's Maundy Thursday offering. Presenters will be Gage Claas, Area Coordinator for Jefferson City, and Courtney Huff, Family Advocate and foster parent. They will share information about Coyote Hill's philosophy, locations, special programs and perhaps the back-story of its name!. If you plan to attend, make reservations with Rose Strobel by Monday, August 19.

Mobile Food Pantry: Audrey Bunch

The Mobile Food Truck was held July 9th in the rain with a high of 69 degrees. So thankful for the volunteers that came out to help with this community event. We served 121 families with 365 people in those families. Items given out were apples, blackberries, bread, buns, corn, ginger ale, green beans, ground pork, leeks, potatoes and Romaine lettuce. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran Church; Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile will be August 13th at 1:00 P.M.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger:

The Jr. Lutherans are going on a train ride to Herman, MO. on September 22, 2024. They will board the train in Jefferson City at 11:50 a.m. and ride to Herman where they will visit the town and

attractions. They will then board the train in Herman at 4:45 p.m. for the return trip to Jefferson City. Tickets will be paid by the Jr. Lutherans and adults are welcome to come along. **NOTE: All reservations must be confirmed by Monday, August 5th to Donita Stubinger to include how many are going, and the ages of those going.**

Children's Sunday School: AJ Ferrell & Wendy Barker: Will teach Children's Sunday school twice a month in August, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays which are non-Communion. This is exciting for all our children, teachers, and Pastor David.

Vacation Bible School: St. Pauls really showed up this year for Vacation Bible School that was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville from July 7-11. Fourteen St. Paul's Lutheran church youth attended VBS, with an additional seven adults pitching in in various ways to help make VBS possible. This year's theme was SCUBA (diving into friendship with God).



Our youth learned about how God is real. He is a friend who loves and is worthy of our trust. Not only that, but He is our friend forever, and is a friend for everyone! Each night began with a tasty meal courtesy of Misty Schroeder (thank you!!!). Smiling faces from St. Pauls and our other area churches served the meals and snacks nightly. Youth sang and danced, played games outside, learned Bible verses, and made a craft each night, too! It was a great time for fellowship and learning about God's love! Pastor Viles even made an appearance and it was definitely one the kids won't forget (see picture). :) The youth of St. Paul's would like to thank all who helped make VBS a success, including Zola and her scholarships that paid for our youth to attend this year!



Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Who looks forward to Fellowship Hour following Sunday worship services at St. Paul's? I suspect that most of you reading these lines will answer "I do!" Members of Margaret Circle, in conjunction with Rose Strobel, will host Fellowship on Sunday, August 4th. We hope to see all of your smiling faces coming down the steps to enjoy some treats and visiting with one another! Our Circle's next meeting will take place at Church on Tuesday, August the 6th, at 6:30 PM. Kathryn Linsenhardt will host and Kay Pascoe will lead us in the study of God's Holy Word. Ladies of this congregation, you are all welcome!

Back to School Supplies: Each year the area churches donate a list of supplies for the children returning to school who may not have or cannot afford them. Each year, St. Paul's is given a list of requested items, and you go beyond all expectations of the community. Pastor David is very proud of each of you. Thank you for being true disciples of Christ.



St. Paul's Chili Supper and Country Store 2024: Misty Schroeder

SAVE THE DATE: October 6th will be the Annual St. Paul's Chili Supper and Country Store. As always, your help is needed and very much appreciated on this day full of fellowship, fun, and great food. We will again be having a Country Store this year. Canned goods, fresh produce, handiwork, and baked goods are always welcome. It's a treat to see the array of items that we have for sale. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to attend. If you have any questions, please let Misty Schroeder (690-3693) or Audrey Bunch (782-3177) hear from you.

Election Day (Primary): August 6, 2024

The basement Friendship Hall will open at 6:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m.

Thank You Kent Nelson: for replacing the light above the side door which had been mysteriously broken.



Calendar of Events and Schedules

August 4th, Sunday: Children’s Sunday School

August 4th, Sunday: Fellowship Hour after worship in the basement.

August 6th, Tuesday: Primary Election Day in the Basement of St. Paul’s Church.

August 6th, Tuesday: Margaret Circle in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

August 12th, Monday: Church Council meets in the main room upstairs at 6:00 p.m.

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

August 18th, Sunday: Children’s Sunday School.

August 18th, Sunday: Pistel Family Reunion

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

August 21st, Wednesday: S.T.A.R.S. will gather at 11:30 a.m. Presentation by Coyote Hills Foster Care.

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

August 22nd, Thursday: Epistle Deadline for News and Articles.

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays.

Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

Council Schedule

Aug – 04	Stacy Bubach
Aug – 11	AJ Ferrell
Aug – 18	Kent Nelson
Aug – 25	Frank Pascoe

Acolyte Schedule

Aug – 04	Lucas Plochberger
Aug – 11	Volunteer
Aug – 18	Madeline Stubinger
Aug – 25	Morgan Schroeder

Greeters Schedule

Aug – 04	Volunteer	Volunteer
Aug – 11	Devin Koestner	Jerry Koestner
Aug – 18	David Russell	Trish Russell
Aug – 25	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle

Readers Schedule

Aug – 04	Trish Russell
Aug – 11	Harry Thompson
Aug – 18	Jana Thompson
Aug – 25	Nicole Benne

Song Leader

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

Audio / Video Technician

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

Organist / Keyboard

Aug – 04	Zola Finch
Aug – 11	Zola Finch
Aug – 18	Zola Finch
Aug – 25	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Marie Scheperle and Carol Elliott

Communion Assistants

Aug – 11	Rosemary Heidbreder
Aug – 25	Devin Koestner

Altar Flowers for the Month

Marlene Carlson

* Communion Days noted in Yellow