

EPIS⁺LE



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

Volume 69 No. 3

March - 2025

Contact Information:

Church 573-782-4458 Leave Message
Address: 8618 Church Hill Dr.
Lohman, MO 65053

Pastor: Rev. David Viles
Cell Phone: 479-670-2000

Website:
<http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org>

FaceBook:
<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

Pastor's Message

The Greatest Love of All

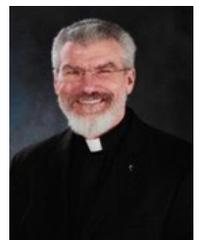
*"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
Genesis 3:19*

Janet woke before dawn on Ash Wednesday, the small cross pendant her grandmother had given her clutched in her palm. This Lent would be different. After years of half-hearted observances—giving up chocolate or social media only to cave halfway through, she felt called to something deeper.

At the evening service, Pastor David marked her forehead with ashes, his words resonated within her: "Remember you are dust, and to dust

you shall return." Janet felt the weight of those words in her heart. This year she wouldn't merely abstain from something trivial; she would embrace the principles that Christ exemplified on the cross.

For sacrifice, Janet committed to waking an hour earlier each day for prayer and reflection, giving up the comfort of sleep. She also decided to donate the money she would have spent on takeout meals and coffee to the local shelter. Humility became her focus on Thursdays, she volunteered at a soup kitchen, washing dishes and cleaning tables without seeking recognition. When praised for her work, Janet redirected the conversation to the team's collective efforts. Friday, Janet practiced repentance. She spent the evening examining her conscience, acknowledging the ways she had fallen short, her impatience with colleagues, her judgmental thoughts, her reluctance to forgive an old friend. In prayer, she sought forgiveness and resolved to make amends where possible. Saturdays were dedicated to love. Janet checked on elderly neighbors, called family members she had neglected, she encouraged friends facing difficulties. One Saturday, she spent hours helping a neighbor's child with homework, putting aside her own work. Sundays remained a celebration, but Janet embraced them as days of hope. She attended St. Paul's with an open heart, finding new meaning in familiar rituals. Later, she visited a nursing home, bringing flowers and sitting with patients who had few visitors, speaking with them about their lives and sharing stories of hope. The journey wasn't easy. By the third week, exhaustion threatened to derail her intentions. One morning, Janet hit snooze instead of rising for prayer. Another day, irritation flared when a colleague took credit for her work. She found herself slipping into old patterns of judgment and impatience. But unlike previous years, Janet didn't abandon her commitments. She acknowledged her failures and began again. "This too is part of Lent," her pastor reminded her. "We fall, we rise, we continue forward." As Holy Week approached, Janet noticed subtle changes. The sacrifice of time had become a gift rather than a burden. Acts of humble service brought unexpected joy. Repentance had lightened her spirit. Love and hope had begun to change her outlook, even amid difficulties. Janet experienced Lent as more than a season of deprivation. It had become a journey toward the heart of faith, guided by the principles of Christ's sacrifice. The cross pendant still rested in her palm as she whispered a prayer of gratitude. This Lent had taught her that resurrection wasn't just a historical event to commemorate—it was a daily possibility, a continuous invitation to die to old ways and rise to new life.



Your servant in Christ,
Pastor David Viles

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jeannette Fischer
- 3 Kyle Crossman
- 4 Glen Stubinger
- 6 Chase Pistel
- 6 Melvin Stubinger
- 7 Charles Ferrell
- 8 Jacob Loesch
- 9 Rich Prosch
- 11 Wendy Barker
- 12 J.D. Murphy
- 13 Cori Soell
- 14 Carol Elliott
- 15 Jayce Tschirgi
- 16 Lisa Beard
- 16 Tom Kirchner
- 16 Elizabeth Russell
- 18 Rosemary Heidbreder
- 18 Sloane Heidbreder
- 19 Richard Heidbreder
- 20 Keagan Strobel
- 21 Paula Linsenbardt
- 22 Laura Plochberger
- 22 Landon Plochberger
- 23 Dan Tschirgi
- 26 Lauren Stubinger
- 28 Brandon Williams
- 28 Wolfgang Neenan
- 29 Erika Gerth
- 29 Theresa Pistel
- 30 Harry Thompson

| Month/Day | Attendance Phys./Virtual | Offering |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| FEBRUARY 02 | 95 / 582 | \$ 3,341.53 |
| FEBRUARY 09 | 78 / 332 | \$ 3,377.83 |
| FEBRUARY 16 | 86 / 364 | \$ 4,185.70 |
| FEBRUARY 23 | 56 / 207 | \$ 2,522.00 |

Additional Income:

Epistle Postage: \$145.00 To Date
Bonnie Britt Memorials
 WELCA Kitchen Fund: \$930.00
 St. Paul's Cemetery: \$ 35.00
 Samaritan Center: \$155.00

Lucy Louise England, daughter of Miranda and Luke England was Baptized on February 16, 2025. We welcome this beautiful child of God into the family of Christ and the family of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



The family of Bonnie Britt would like to express their Sincere Appreciation for the many messages of sympathy, prayers, and kindness extended for the loss of their loved one.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Angela & Curt Bracher 2020
- 19 Desmond & Irma Pascoe 1995
- 25 Shawn & Jessica Stoermer 2006

Continued prayers for:

The family of Bonnie Britt, Curt Bracher, Roger & Nancy Thompson, Stacy McNamer, Patty Ott, Jerry Koestner, Don Buchta, Julie Carel, Jackie Tinsley, the family of Ruth Strobel, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



Congregational Council Meeting, February 10, 2025

† A six o'clock 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 Ashleigh Hillen, Misty Schroeder, Debbie Raithel, Gus Fischer, Zola Finch, and Debi Berry. Dan Tschirgi, Kent Nelson, and A.J. Ferrell were absent. Also not in attendance was the Church Treasurer Michelle Collins. Pastor David Viles was present. The meeting was started with a devotion reading and a prayer by Pastor David Viles.

† The new council members were introduced and provided a church handbook and a constitution with by-laws and continuing resolutions.

† The President requested approval of the previous Council minutes; this was done upon a motion by Misty Schroeder, seconded by Gus Fischer and approved by all. The President presented the Church Treasurer report provided by Michelle Collins. Income totals for January 2025 showed a total of \$13,777.96, with expense totals for January 2025 at \$12,454.75. Due to two Sunday's missed in January because of bad weather, we are a little in the black. We have a CD due in April \$790.34. A new excel file sheet was created for use with reporting monthly, year-end, and the ELCA report.

† Pastor's report showed five December meetings with parish and local groups, including Lohman City Council. Pastor met with our Worship and Music, Church Council, and our Mutual Ministry Groups. In addition, there was a Congregational Meeting held. He had a total of five visits and consultations with our parishioners and others. In addition, Pastor answered text messages and phone messages daily. Activities: dismantled the top of the Christmas Tree, the outside lights, and the wreaths. He updated our Church Website and video service. He created and emailed the February Epistle. Pastor posted two worship services from home on Facebook due to the inclement weather. Pastor attended a Moniteau County Court hearing in California MO. Pastor provided one Communion Sunday service, and as well as three non-Communion Sunday worship services in-person and online with Facebook.

President Finch: requested our committee chairpersons to present their reports on recent activities and Debi Berry requested that they please be in writing for her minutes.

Evangelism: Misty Schroeder reported no meeting with Trinity Russellville parish has taken place to discuss the suggested joint Sunday services. She is hoping this will be forthcoming soon. Discussion was held regarding social sharing: one service at Trinity and one at St. Paul's, twice a year. The Fellowship Council breakfast will be held on 2 March immediately following the service. It will consist of Biscuits and Gravy, fruit, drinks, etc. No charge, the council is paying. Misty announced a pancake breakfast scheduled on 16 March from 10:00 to 1:00. There will be pancakes, sausage, apples, and drinks. There will be no eggs served due to the price of eggs. Pastor is redoing the flyer. There will also be a spaghetti luncheon, April 6th immediately after services. To-go boxes will be available. The luncheon will be from 10:30 to 1:00. There will also be salad, garlic bread, desserts and A FREE WILL OFFERING. There will be a chili and soup dinner on 5 October from 3:30 to 6:30.

Technology: Pastor announced the sanctuary screen monitors are here at St. Paul's, and an electrician is coming with an estimate on Friday. The brackets are up and mounted. There was new discussion about the need to have them up at all. The need for them was explained and most of the council agreed that they would stay. There is an additional need for workers to operate and perform the balcony duties needed as well as flipping the slides on the laptop. As always, it is hoped some of our teens and young adults will step up to this task.

Worship & Music: Ashleigh Hillen reported that there was no in-person meeting in January; however, January and February hymn choices were chosen on-line by the participating committee members directed by Kathy Meller. The setting has been set to number 3. Discussion was shared that the music

and the prelude on 9 February were excellent. There was a discussion held with Kathryn by the committee about collecting donations for the Easter lilies earlier. Kathy Meller has ordered new Bell music, and the Choir has purchased it.

IMPORTANT WORSHIP DATES

- Ash Wednesday is 5 March at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday Lenten services will be held on March 12th, 19th, 26th all at 6 p.m. April Wednesday Lenten services will be held on the 2nd and the 9th at 6 p.m. Pastor will ask for volunteers to participate as readers during the services in Lent.
- Maundy Thursday is April 17th at 6 p.m.
- Good Friday is the 18th at 6 p.m. Hot Cross Buns
- Palm Sunday is 13 April at 9:00 a.m.
- Easter is 20 April at 9:00 a.m.

Parish Education: A.J. Ferrell was absent; however, some other council members gave some updates as they knew: A.J. reported that the schedule for Sunday School in 2025 will remain the same as in this past year. Also, they have purchased some additional plastic eggs. Sunday School is going well, and A.J. Ferrell and Wendy Barker are teaching.

Church Improvement: Kent Nelson was absent however; it was noted he is continuing work on having the new TV Monitors installed. Kent is also seeking ways of connecting electricity to the monitors.

Old Business: At the January meeting, the Church Treasurer requested the Council to consider and discuss the need to plan to carry on the weekly and monthly financial recording done by recently retired Financial Recording Secretary Marie Scheperle. This has been resolved with the determination that Zola Finch and one council member assigned to the Sunday worship will fulfill these duties. In the event that Zola Finch is not available, a second council member will be asked to help with this duty.

Church Parsonage rental form: The paperwork is completed. Some additional ideas were shared, and research will be conducted and presented under old business in March. Debi is looking for more ideas and information. OPEN

New Business: Debi Berry brought the recommendation to the Council that Church forms a craft group, i.e. card making, diamond dotting, wood painting, scrapbooking, crocheting and knitting lessons, etc. Debi Berry will ascertain interest in being a member of a subcommittee to discuss and then present to the council.

At 7:50 President Finch declared the meeting in adjournment. The meeting ended with a recitation of the Our Father led by Pastor Viles.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 10th, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Debi Berry

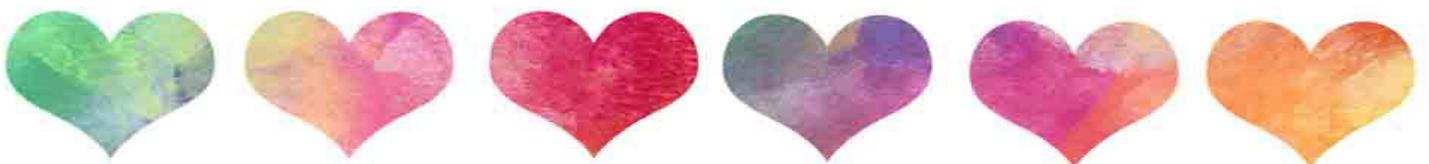
STARS: Erika Gerth/Jeannette Fischer

Due to inclement weather conditions, our February STARS meeting had to be canceled. However, our scheduled speaker, Teresa Brown, from the Alzheimer's Association Greater Missouri Chapter has been rescheduled for July.

Our March meeting will be held on March 19 and our program will be given by Dan Cooper, Executive Director of Oaks Indian Mission located in Oaks, Oklahoma. He will share interesting information about the services the mission provides for the children located there. Our menu will feature soups and sandwiches. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 or 694-3634 by Monday, March 17.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger

Jr. Lutherans met in the church basement on Sunday, February 2, 2025 to work on a valentine heart frame to take to the residents at Primrose Retirement Home. It was an exciting day, we ate donuts at the Fellowship Breakfast, worked on crafts, ate lunch here at the church and then motored over to Primrose Retirement Home to deliver our heart frames to the residents. The crafts were pictures of the Jr. Lutherans and various family members. They painted their frame and then added ribbons. The decorated frames were given to 36 residents, including Jenetia Gibler which they took to her room and was welcomed by Jenetia.



Jr. Lutherans had a great turnout for the Ice Skating event at Jefferson City Washington Park Arena. We had 5 adults and 19 children and youth out on the ice. There were also many watchers in the seats to watch show. The show did involve a few full body slides on the ice, while the younger ones had the 'ice walkers' to help them stay up. Some of the boys had races using the walkers. All of them enjoyed cookies and snacks to keep up their energy. It was a very exciting day which all enjoyed on Sunday, February 23, 2025.



Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Our first meeting of 2025 took place at St. Paul's on Tuesday, February 4th. Donita Stubinger welcomed us with an array of goodies including a heart-shaped cake and delicious chocolates, a sure sign that Valentine's Day was fast approaching! Ruth Stubinger guided us through an in-depth exploration of Psalm 23, providing us with insight into the importance of sheep and their shepherds in Biblical times and what that means for us today. Newsletters from agencies supported by Margaret Circle were shared, including one from Oaks Indian Mission, located in Oklahoma. Margaret Circle, as well as St. Paul's and some of its members, have supported Oaks Indian Mission for many years and we were thrilled when Dan Cooper, Executive Director of the Mission, accepted our invitation to visit St. Paul's! He will be the guest speaker at STARS on March 19th and everyone is invited. Donita continues to take additional items, such as toothbrushes and tooth paste, gloves, chapsticks, etc. to the Elementary School in Russellville to be added to children's Buddy Packs on Fridays. We reviewed the organizations we will support with our offerings this calendar year and donated \$200.00 to Mobility Worldwide. We give out of gratitude for the many ways God has blessed each of us! Margaret Circle's next meeting will take place at St. Paul's on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:30 PM. Kay Pascoe will lead us in the study of God's Holy Word, and Erika Gerth will provide refreshments. All women of the church, and their friends, are invited!

WELCA LENT INGATHERING: Donita Stubinger:

Starting with Ash Wednesday through Good Friday, we will be collecting bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotions and deodorants for the Samaritan Center. Thanks so much for your donations.

WELCA QUILTING DAYS: Donita Stubinger:

Tuesday, February 11, the Women of the ELCA gathered in the Fellowship and Friendship Hall and started putting quilts together for Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to the Freundschaft Groupe for putting up the frames. Jeannette Fischer was measuring and getting the quilts ready for the rest of the group who were doing the tacking part. Each framing group puts the back, batting and lastly the beautiful tops into the frames before starting the tacking process. Several of the group have been working all year round for this special project. We had another day of this same repeat process on Monday, February 17, in which we got 11 quilts done, with about 20 more to go. Some of the ladies will take home the quilts to work on binding the quilt edges. This is a great project for Lutheran World Relief, in which all churches are doing within our synod. If you ever get the chance to visit or help, it's a fun day. We start around 8:30 a.m., coffee break at 9:30 a.m. and lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Yep, we get a lot done, but we still have time for fellowship and friendship. There is always something you can help with, just ask the needle threader, David George how his job is going, Join us – it's FUN!



Fruendschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

There were 18 in attendance at our February meeting. After Donita and Glen served us a delicious dinner, we tackled our chores. The big job for the evening was setting up quilt frames and pinning in quilts to give our quilters a head start.

People ask, "Where do all those quilts go?" The answer is, "everywhere." Lutheran World Relief sends them all over the world as well as here in the United States. War and natural disasters receive our quilts anywhere they are needed. Hopefully these items bring comfort to the recipients. Please note our gruppe will have a scheduling change in March. We will meet the first Monday, March 3. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Jeannette at 782-4594 by 9 PM on Sunday, March 2.

SouperBowl Sunday: Sadly the Chiefs fell short of a win, but St. Paul's came through with a trifecta. Your generosity provided 135 cans of Soup, 32 packaged dried Soup, and several miscellaneous canned and dry goods. You have made SouperBowl Sunday a winning day every year in a row. Thank you to all who donated to feed the hungry at the mobile food pantry.

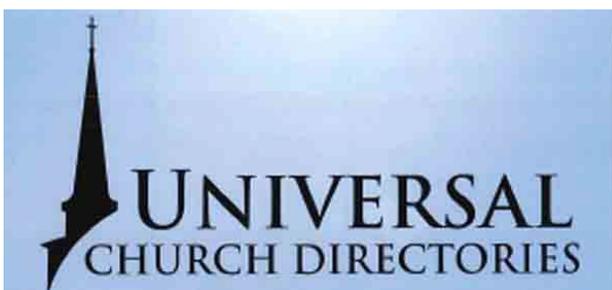


Mobile Food Pantry: The February 11th Mobile Food Truck was at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot. It was a cold and snowy day. Served 103 families with 291 people in those families. Some of the items served were potatoes, corn, milk, canned vegetables, crackers, dog food, cereal, apples, sweet potatoes, cottage cheese, sausage, bread, soda, and ground chicken. St. Paul's donated the canned soup, dry soup, and miscellaneous canned goods from the Souper Bowl Sundays. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder and Dan Tschirgi. Next Mobile Food Truck will be held March 11th.



It's that time of year again when we lose one hour for Daylight Savings Time. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour on MARCH 9TH at 2:00 a.m. or when you go to bed on Saturday, March 8TH.

Early to bed, early to rise, gets a congregation together on time at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. I'll have an extra long sermon so you can regain some of your lost sleep.



St. Paul's is once again having a Photo Directory published for our congregaiton. This directory will not be complete without you and your family in it's pages.

Photography dates in St. Paul's basement will be on Tuesday, March 18th and Wednesday, March 19th during the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

You may sign up for a time online or by contacting Debbie Boyce, Debbie Raithel, or Pastor David. Times are filling

up so please consider a time soon. If you have any questions please let one of the above people know. Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!

This will also give you an opportunity to purchase a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options and have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Lenten Season : This year the lenten season begins on March 5th with our Mid-Week Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 p.m. This will be followed by 5 Wednesday services at 6:00 p.m. Pastor David has a program of weekly readers and we will sing the Holden Evening Prayer. The Ash Wednesday envelope will go to support the Oaks Indian Mission, and all other mid-week services will go to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

St. Paul's Annual Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday — March 16th
10:00 AM until 1:00 PM**

All you care to eat. Pancakes, Sausage,
Applesauce, Coffee, Milk, and Orange Juice.



8618 Church Hill Drive—Lohman, MO. 65053

Adults \$10.00

Children age 6 to 12 \$5.00

Kids 5 years old or under eat free.

Hosted by St. Paul's Evangelism Committee

Calendar of Events and Schedules

- March 2nd**, Sunday: Children’s Bell Choir and Children’s Sunday School
March 2nd, Sunday: Fellowship Hour in the Basement after Worship
March *3rd, Monday: Fruendschaft Gruppe meets in the basement at 5:30 p.m.
March 10th, Monday: Church Council will meet in the Sunday School room upstairs at 6:00 p.m.
March 11th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.
March 16th, Sunday: Children’s Sunday School. Pancake Breakfast 10am until 1pm.
March 16th, Sunday: Baptism of Michelle Kay Watson, daughter of Caleb & Jana Watson, granddaughter of Kent and Julie Nelson.
March 18th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.
March 19th, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and presentation: Oaks Indian
March 19th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
March 24th, Monday: 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

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Mar. – 02 | Debi Berry |
| Mar. – 05 | Gus Fischer |
| Mar. – 09 | Debbie Raithel |
| Mar. – 16 | Misty Schroeder |
| Mar. – 23 | Kent Nelson |
| Mar. – 30 | Debi Berry |

Greeters Schedule

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Mar. – 02 | Harry Thompson | Jana Thompson |
| Mar. – 05 | Audrey Bunch | Jerry Koestner |
| Mar. – 09 | David Russell | Trish Russell |
| Mar. – 16 | Rosemary Heidbreder | Richard Heidbreder |
| Mar. – 23 | Audrey Bunch | Jerry Koestner |
| Mar. – 30 | Donald Weber | Marie Scheperle |

Acolyte Schedule

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Mar. – 02 | Lucas Plochberger |
| Mar. – 05 | Oliver Stoermer |
| Mar. – 09 | Madeline Stubinger |
| Mar. – 16 | Morgan Schroeder |
| Mar. – 23 | Lucas Plochberger |
| Mar. – 30 | Oliver Stoermer |

Readers Schedule

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Mar. – 02 | Nicole Benne |
| Mar. – 05 | Audrey Bunch |
| Mar. – 09 | Carol Elliott |
| Mar. – 16 | Donald Weber |
| Mar. – 23 | Sherrie Hanks |
| Mar. – 30 | Trish Russell |

Song Leader

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Mar. – 02 | Kathy Meller |
| Mar. – 05 | Kathy Meller |
| Mar. – 09 | Kathy Meller |
| Mar. – 16 | Dan Tschirgi |
| Mar. – 23 | Dan Tschirgi |
| Mar. – 30 | Kathy Meller |

Audio / Video Technician

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Mar. – 02 | Dan Tschirgi |
| Mar. – 05 | Dan Tschirgi |
| Mar. – 09 | Dan Tschirgi |
| Mar. – 16 | Roger Pennell |
| Mar. – 23 | Roger Pennell |
| Mar. – 30 | Dan Tschirgi |

Organist / Keyboard

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Mar. – 02 | Zola Finch |
| Mar. – 05 | Zola Finch |
| Mar. – 09 | Zola Finch |
| Mar. – 16 | Kathy Meller |
| Mar. – 23 | Zola Finch |
| Mar. – 30 | Zola Finch |

Communionware for the Month

Sharron Schneiders & Makayla Enowski

Communion Assistants

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Mar. – 05 | Donald Weber |
| Mar. – 09 | Trish Russell |
| Mar. – 23 | Jessica Stoermer |

Altar Flowers for the Month

Rosemary Heidbreder

* Communion Days noted in Yellow