

EPIS⁺LE



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

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April - 2025

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Pastor's Message

He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:5-6

As the first light of dawn broke on that fateful morning, my heart was heavy with sorrow. I, Mary Magdalene, along with the other Mary, felt the weight of despair as we made our way to the tomb of Jesus. Our beloved Teacher, our Lord, had been crucified just three days before, and the pain of our loss was fresh and unbearable.

We walked quietly, our hearts aching as we remembered the moments we had shared with Him—the teachings, the miracles, the love He had shown us. We had come to pay our respects, and to anoint His body with spices as a final act of love. As we approached the tomb, a sense of dread filled the air. Who would roll away the stone for us?

But as we arrived, a great earthquake shook the ground. My heart raced in fear. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared, his countenance like lightning, and his clothes white as snow. The guards, so powerful and fearsome, trembled and became like dead men. I clutched the other Mary's arm, both of us frozen in shock at the sight before us.

The angel spoke to us, his voice calm yet commanding. "Do not be afraid," he said. "I know you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He lay."

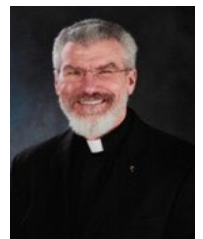
I could hardly process the words. Risen? My mind raced, and a glimmer of hope flickered within the depths of my sorrow. The angel gestured toward the empty tomb, and we stepped forward cautiously, peering inside. The grave clothes were neatly folded, and the stone that had sealed the tomb was now rolled away.

In that moment, joy and disbelief mingled in my heart. Our Lord was alive! The angel instructed us to go quickly and tell the disciples, proclaiming the good news of His resurrection. With renewed strength, we ran from the tomb, our sorrow transformed into joy, our despair into hope.

As we hurried along, the reality of what had just occurred began to sink in. Our Rabbi, the one who had shown us such love and grace, had conquered death. I could hardly contain the excitement. We had to share this miraculous news!

In the midst of our fear and joy, I knew that everything had changed. This was not just a moment; it was the beginning of a new reality, a promise fulfilled. The resurrection of Jesus was the cornerstone of our faith. He had Risen, He had Risen indeed!

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor David Viles



FINANCIAL UPDATE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Donald Weber
- 1 Wilfred Plochberger
- 2 Bill Stubinger
- 3 Cory Soell
- 4 Patricia Russell
- 4 Julie Walters
- 8 Kara Richart
- 11 Laura Koestner
- 11 Mattson Stoermer
- 12 Hope Stubinger
- 13 Devin Koestner
- 13 Paul Schiller
- 15 Ellen Strobel
- 15 Knox Olsen
- 16 Landin Thompson
- 16 Todd Walters
- 17 Michelle Collins
- 17 Mitchell Plochberger
- 19 Noah Stubinger
- 22 Diane Kalaf
- 22 Christie Murphy
- 23 Chris Russell
- 25 Clara Barker
- 26 Angie Bracher
- 27 Garrett Hager
- 29 Kay Pascoe

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
MARCH 02	106 / 349	\$ 5,323.18
MARCH 09	86 / 249	\$ 4,366.16
MARCH 16	132 / 188	\$ 3,480.53
MARCH 23	70 / 332	\$ 1,765.00
MARCH 30	72 / 263	\$ 4,278.00

Additional Income:

Ash Wednesday, Oaks Indian Mission: \$515.00
Lent Mid-Week, ELCA Hunger Appeal: \$944.00

Michelle Kay Watson, daughter of Jana & Caleb Watson, granddaughter of Kent & Julie Nelson was Baptized on March 16, 2025. We welcome this beautiful child of God into the family of Christ and the family of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Shawn & Sherrie Williams 1999
- 18 Matt & Wendy Barker 2015 **10 YRS**
- 18 Jerry & Laurie Koestner 1992
- 21 Luke & Miranda England 2018
- 23 Charles & Wanda Ferrell 1982
- 23 Michael & Dana Moeller 1994
- 25 Doug & Julie Carel 1987

Continued prayers for:

The family of Melvin Stubinger, Curt Bracher, Roger & Nancy Thompson, Stacy McNamer, Jerry Koestner, Don Buchta, Julie Carel, Jackie Tinsley, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

Congregational Council Meeting, March 10, 2025

† At 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 Debbie Raithel, Gus Fischer, Zola Finch, AJ Ferrell, Michelle Collins and Debi Berry. Dan Tschirgi, Kent Nelson, Misty Schroeder, and Ashleigh Hillen were absent. Pastor Viles was in attendance. A prayer by Pastor David Viles started off the meeting.

† The President requested approval of the previous Council minutes; this was done upon a motion by AJ Ferrell, seconded by Gus Fischer and approved by all.

† Michelle Collins presented the Church Treasurer report. Income totals for February 2025 showed a total of \$13,280.62, with expense totals for February 2025 at \$13,087.36. We had interest paid on the CD due in April of \$7.85. There was a \$100.00 transfer out for Cemetery. The new excel file sheet that was created for use with reporting monthly, year-end, and the ELCA report is working out wonderfully. The statement balanced.

† Pastor's report showed six February meetings with parish and local groups. Pastor met with the Church Council, and had 9 visits, 1 funeral, 5 services: 2 with communion and 2 noncommunion, 1 Baptism, and Ash Wednesday. In addition, the 9 visits and consultations were with our parishioners and others. In addition, Pastor answered text messages and phone messages daily. Activities: He updated our Church Website and video service. He created and emailed the March Epistle. Pastor aided a parishioner with transportation to an appointment, attended a member birthday party, and donated blood.

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

Evangelism: Misty Schroeder was absent therefore Zola Finch presented the report. Zola reminded the council of the pancake breakfast scheduled on March 16th from 10:00 to 1:00. There will be pancakes, sausage, apples, and drinks. There will be a cost of \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children 6 years to 12 years old, and children 5 years and under will be free. Pastor redid the flyer. A card and a gift card were presented to Marie Scheperle, and she was pleased. 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. A motion for approval of the report was made by Debi Berry and seconded by Debbie Raithel. Approved by all.

Technology: Dan was absent but provided his report. The screens are up and installed. Live stream on Facebook is now fixed. They are working on the casting on the television screens and discussing the use of HTMI splitters. There is still an added need for workers to run and perform the balcony duties as well as flipping the slides on the I-Pad. As always, it is hoped some of our teens and young adults will step up to this task. A vacuum was provided for use on the balcony. A motion for approval of the report was made by AJ Ferrell and seconded by Gus Fischer. Approved by all.

Worship & Music: Ashleigh Hillen was absent therefore, Zola reported that there was no in-person meeting in February; however, March and April hymn choices are selected and approved. The setting has been set to 3 was mentioned as a reminder. All services are now at 6 pm. A motion for approval of the report was made by AJ Ferrell and seconded by Gus Fischer. Approved by all.

Important Worship Dates

- 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.

- Palm Sunday is April 13th and there will be palms.
- Maundy Thursday is on April 17th.
- Good Friday is April 18th, Hot Cross Buns cannot be found so will not be provided this year.
- Easter Sunday service on April 20th will be at the regular time. There will be no sunrise service.

A motion for approval of the report was made by AJ Ferrell and seconded by Gus Fischer. Approved by all.

Parish Education: A.J. Ferrell and Wendy Barker will be alternating Sunday school. A.J. reported that the schedule for Sunday School in 2025 will remain the same as in this past year. Also, VBS is tentatively scheduled to be held the 6th through the 10th of July. They are researching grants for some additional resources for the property for all ages. A motion for approval of the report was made by Debi Berry and seconded by Gus Fischer. Approved by all.

Church Improvement: Kent Nelson was absent however; it was noted that he is wondering if we want to paint the conduits on the wall leading to the monitors. A motion for approval of the report was made by AJ Ferrell and seconded by Gus Fischer. Approved by all.

Stewardship/Finance: Gus Fischer presented quotes for the possibility of having to pursue additional insurance if the Parsonage does not start being used. A motion for approval of the report was made by Debi Berry and seconded by Debbie Raithel. Approved by all.

Mutual Ministry: Debbie Raithel mentioned that their committee did not meet in February. They are meeting in March. All the times for the photos for the picture directory are booked. Working with the photographer to obtain another date and time. A motion for approval of the report was made by AJ Ferrell and seconded by Gus Fischer. Approved by all.

Old Business: Reminder that there is a Church Parsonage, and a Church basement rental form: The form should be completed after confirming the date with Pastor, and given to him. If you have a need to rent either location, please see Pastor. A motion for approval of the report was made by Debi Berry and seconded by Debbie Raithel. Approved by all.

New Business: There will be a Central States Synod Assembly from 5-7 June in Olathe Kansas (Thurs – Sat). Registration closes 15 May and if you are interested, please contact Pastor. It requests one male and one female to attend. The church pays the costs.

Recommendations were submitted to make the following additions/changes to the parsonage: Replace storm door handle – council discussing; Replace the lock – council discussing; Put in a dusk to dawn light – council voted no need; Bring the old stove from garage to kitchen – council voted that there is no interest in utilizing the old stove – recommend that new gas stove be purchased; Remove boxes on back porch – council discussing; Use the furniture in the basement for upstairs – council voted no, as it is old, molding – recommend asking parishioners if they have any that they are willing to donate – council still discussing.

Spring clean-up day will be scheduled soon prior to Easter. Speak with Kent Nelson and request pest control be done.

Debi Berry has seven members thus far who are interested in forming a craft group, i.e., card making, diamond dotting, wood painting, scrapbooking, crocheting, and knitting lessons, etc. Debi Berry will be the POC and will be posting a sign-up sheet in the Narthex? If you have any questions, her phone number is in the directory. Debi Berry will be posting a flyer on Sunday to ascertain interest in attending the crucifixion and resurrection program by the Lesters on Saturday April 19th at 6 pm. Please sign-up if interested. If you have any questions, her phone number is in the directory.

At 7:39 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, April 14th, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Debi Berry

STARS: Jeannette Fischer

Our March meeting was held on March 19 with 32 in attendance. We enjoyed a variety of soups plus turkey and ham sandwiches. Special thanks to those who contributed crock pots of soup and to Rosemary and Audrey for making all the sandwiches. Our program was given by Dan Cooper, Executive



Director of Oaks Indian Mission located in Oaks, Oklahoma. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 16 and we will entertain ourselves with Bingo. Audrey has volunteered to be in charge and she has lots of wonderful prizes for you. Invite a friend and enjoy the afternoon. If

you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 or 694-3634 by Monday, April 14.

The Season of Lent: Ash Wednesday began the season of Lent with a service of imposition of ashes and communion. Audrey Bunch was the reader for this evening, Oliver Storemer did a fine job of acolyting, Kathy Meller led us in singing hymns, accompanied by the organist extrodenaire Zola Finch, and Donald Weber assisted with communion. It was a good evening to consider fasting, preparing, and testing. Five weeks followed on each Wednesday with selected reading accounts of those who were around Jesus during his time of Holy Week.



Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth Margaret Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 1st, at 6:30 PM at Church. Erika Gerth will host and Kay Pascoe will lead us in the study of God's Holy Word. All women of the church are invited!

WELCA Spring Gathering: Marie Schepeler

The Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cole Camp beginning at 9:00 am. There will be refreshments to begin the day. Following will be a Bible Study, devotions, singing, business meeting, and delicious lunch. All ladies are invited to attend. More information will follow in upcoming bulletins.

Pancake Breakfast: Misty Schroeder

The annual pancake and sausage breakfast was held on March 16th. We had a wonderful turnout of over 120 guests. Thank you so much to all who came to dine as well as volunteered their time. A special thank you to the Evangelism Committee, Junior Lutherans, as well as everyone who assisted in any way. We couldn't have done it without all those who took time to: cook, serve, wait tables, offer seconds, clean, wash dishes, and dine in. Thank you also to Thrivent, who supplied shirts and a seed fund credit card to help us kick off this event. Our Evangelism Team is awesome and goes beyond the goals set to involve our communities. We raised about \$1,220.00 which help make this a very successful event.

Jr. Lutherans: Donita Stubinger

I want to thank all the Jr. Lutherans and their parents that helped make the Pancake and Sausage breakfast such a success. Everyone enjoyed seeing how all of you were such good helpers. That consisted of our March meeting (Helping Others). We have another working event coming up on Sunday, April 6, 2025 – we will be serving at the Spaghetti Lunchion after Church from 10:30 am until 1:00 pm. We are asking for your support of the Jr. Lutherans by attending and giving a free will donation to help with upcoming events we have planned. We will be calling and asking for Jr. Lutherans and their families to help. Please volunteer to bring desserts and work if you can. Keep watch on the Bulletin Board as you go through the line to see some of our adventures in the past. Our most attended event is coloring on a Saturday in April. This year we will meet in the Church basement on Sunday, April 13, 2025 after church to dye eggs for everyone to take home and have a lunch.

WELCA LENT INGATHERING: Donita Stubinger:

Continuing until Good Friday, we will be collecting bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotions and deodorants for the Samaritan Center. A table is set up in the Narthex. Thank you.

Fruendschaft Gruppe: Jeannette Fischer

We met on March 3 and enjoyed a fantastic Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner served by Glen and Donita with 17 in attendance. Afterward, we accomplished a variety of clean-up chores. We will now be in recess until September.

Mobile Food Pantry: The March 11th Mobile Food Pantry Truck was in Russellville at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot on a warm sunny 80 degree afternoon. We served 146 families with 399 people in those families. Some of the items given out: whole milk, dozens of eggs, Ramen Noodles sirloin, mushroom stock, ready to eat popcorn, fresh radishes, bacon egg cheese sandwiches, frozen chicken leg quarters, assorted pasta and pasta sauce. Thank you to all the volunteers that came to help with this community wide event. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, from St. Paul's were Rosemary Heidbreder, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next Mobile Food Truck will be held April 8th at 1:00 P.M.

2025 Photo Directory: All scheduled photos have been taken and we are discussing next steps with the company to begin production. **NOTICE:** If you sent a photo to be included, there is a \$15.00 charge by Universal Church Directories. Please be sure to give payment to Debbie Boyce or Pastor David to forward to the UCD company for the inclusion of submitted photos.

Graduation Recognition: We plan to recognize and honor our graduating students for area schools on Sunday, May 4th. If you have a graduating student from high school or college, please let Pastor David and Misty Schroeder know their name and where they are graduating from. We will invite them up during worship service for recognition and celebrate their achievements during the Fellowship Hour afterward.

Calendar of Events and Schedules

April 2nd, Wednesday: Lenten Mid-Week Service

April 6th, Sunday: Spaghetti Lunch in the Basement from 10:30a.m. until 1p.m.

April 6th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School

April 8th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.

April 9th, Wednesday: Lenten Mid-Week Service.

April 14th, Monday: Church Council will meet in the Sunday School room upstairs at 6:00 p.m.

April 15th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.

April 16th, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

April 16th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

April 17th, Thursday: Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00 p.m.

April 18th, Friday: Good Friday Service at 6:00 p.m.

April 20th, Sunday: Easter Service at 9:00 a.m. with Egg Hunt to follow.

No Children's Sunday School. No Sunrise Service.

April 24th, Thursday: Epistle News Deadline, please have all articles in as soon as possible.

April 26th, Saturday: WELCA Spring Gathering, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cole Camp. MO.

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

Council Schedule

Apr. - 06	Debbie Raithel
Apr. - 13	Misty Schroeder
Apr. - 17	AJ Ferrell
Apr. - 20	Misty Schroeder
Apr. - 27	Debi Berry

Greeters Schedule

Apr. - 06	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Apr. - 13	David Russell	Trish Russell
Apr. - 17	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle
Apr. - 20	Harry Thompson	Jana Thompson
Apr. - 27	Audrey Bunch	Jerry Koestner

Acolyte Schedule

Apr. - 06	Madeline Stubinger
Apr. - 13	Morgan Schroeder
Apr. - 17	Lucas Plochberger
Apr. - 20	Oliver Stoermer
Apr. - 27	Madeline Stubinger

Readers Schedule

Apr. - 06	Marlene Carlson
Apr. - 13	Delores Vlach
Apr. - 17	Bill Gerth
Apr. - 20	Frank Pascoe
Apr. - 27	Carol Elliott

Song Leader

Apr. - 06	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 13	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 17	Kathy Meller
Apr. - 20	Kathy Meller
Apr. - 27	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

Apr. - 06	Roger Pennell
Apr. - 13	Roger Pennell
Apr. - 17	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 20	Dan Tschirgi
Apr. - 27	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

Apr. - 06	Zola Finch
Apr. - 13	Zola Finch
Apr. - 17	Zola Finch
Apr. - 20	Zola Finch
Apr. - 27	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Audrey Bunch & Rosemary Heidbreder

Communion Assistants

Apr. - 13	Donald Weber
Apr. - 17	Devin Koestner
Apr. - 20	Audrey Bunch & Rosemary Heidbreder
Apr. - 27	Jacklyn Wood

Altar Flowers for the Month

Kathryn Linsenbardt

* Communion Days noted in Yellow