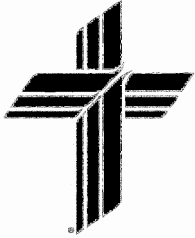


God's Family



• 10:00 a.m.—Sunday
Worship Service

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church
150 W. Highway D
New Melle, MO 63365
(636)828-5616

Volume XXIV Issue 5
May 2023

JOYFUL. FAITHFUL. FAMILY.

Did you know that 32.3% of all adults have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder?

Sadly, 49.9% of young adults ages 18-24 report having such symptoms. (Kaiser Family Foundation)

In John 15:11 Jesus says, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

What if we were a church filled with **Joy**?

Did you know that 17% of American adults say they experienced a lot of loneliness the previous day? (Gallup)

Another article sites that 12% of adults in 2021 reported having no friends at all (BigThink.com)

Another article states, "Fewer U.S. adults 18 to 34 (26%) and 35 to 54 (27%) express confidence in the church compared to those 55 and older (36%), according to Gallup (LifeWay.com) St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:9 "God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

What if we were a church of **Faithful** fellowship?

"An estimated 153 million children worldwide are orphans" (UNICEF)(sos-usa.org).

"The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that there

are almost 114,000 foster children eligible for and waiting to be adopted" (Adoption Network).

Another article claims, "About Three-in-Ten U.S. Adults Are Now Religiously Unaffiliated. Meaning they do not have a spiritual family" (Pew Research).

Paul again writes in Ephesians 1:5-6 "In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."

What if we were a church that welcomed our neighbors into our **Family**?

That is our vision, St. Paul's. To be a **Joyful** congregation, **faithfully** serving Christ, and welcoming our neighbors into our **family**.

But while it is a vision for the future, it is also rooted in who we are: Our past heritage. Our present values. And our very risen Lord Jesus Christ. As his body, we are filled with His **Joy**. His **Faithfulness**. And are made part of His **Family**.

St. Paul's... there is no "what if" about it. We are the Church. And the world needs our mission now.

I have been blessed by you. To see your **Joy**. To experience your **faithfulness**, more so, God's faithfulness

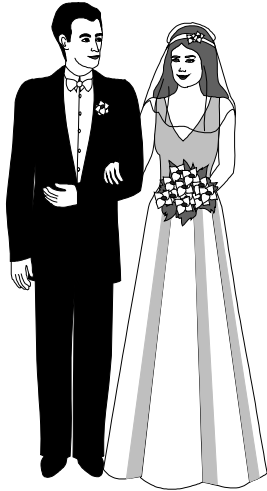
(continued on page 3)



May Birthdays

5/6 – Sharon Demien
5/8 – Amber Vossen
5/14—Amoret Chappell
5/14 – Jennifer Regot

5/16 – Kenneth Goldacker
5/21 – Austin Eslinger
5/29 – Ted Nadler



May Anniversaries

5/8 – Rick & Debbie Pohlmann – 41 years
5/10 – Theodore & Jane Nadler – 60 years
5/14 – Mike & Missy Motz – 41 years
5/28 – Matthew & Amanda Mack – 18 years

May Services

5/7—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.— Communion
5/14—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.—Communion
5/18—Ascension Service—6:00 p.m.
5/21—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.—Communion
5/28—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.—Communion

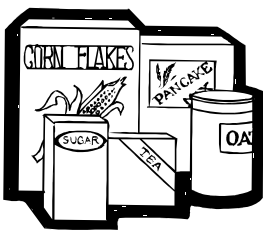


April Food Pantry Donations

Members of the congregation reported donating 36 food items and \$90.00 in cash to the New Melle Food Pantry during the month of March.

In the future, if you donate, please report this to Sherry in the office, so your donations can be included in our tally.

Meal-a-Month Needs for May



The **MEAL-A-MONTH ITEMS** for **May**: Gravy packets, chili, pineapple, fruit cocktail, apple sauce, cooking oil, fruit juice, Bisquick, pancake syrup, ketchup, mayonnaise, and salad dressing (especially ranch dressing).

Please take your items directly to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in New Melle during their office hours. Call 636-398-5270 in advance to be sure there is someone present to accept your donation. Monetary donations should be made payable to “St. Vincent De Paul Society” (“Food Pantry” on the memo line). Monetary donations may be hand-delivered to the church or be mailed to: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, PO Box 100, New Melle, MO 63365.

Please report your donation to Sherry Brandes in the office for Voters Assembly and Ladies Aid records. You only need to report number of items (or boxes or bags) and dollar amount. No names will be attached to the donations; just a monthly tally of the number of food items and dollars donated will be recorded.

NOTE: Food Pantry hours are: The 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Please tell anyone who might benefit from this service!

Joyful. Faithful. Family. (continued from page 1)

through you. And I have been blessed to join many others these past three years in being a part of God's family in this place.

So, let's set our vision to the Lord's next chapter for us. The mission is great, but the one who commissions it is Greater.

One more stat. 100% of humanity, needs Jesus.

In His Grip,
Pastor Maxx

**St. Paul's
Voters Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2023**

Meeting called to order by President Rick Pohlmann.

12 members were present.

Devotion – Pastor Fisher

Minutes – Accepted as presented.

Welcome of Guests – Scott and Pam Anderson

Report of the Pastor – Reported on the ongoing consultant meetings.

Report of the Treasurer – Accepted as presented.

Board of Elders – Harold Demien wants to remove his name from the Safety Deposit Box at Commerce Bank. 100 new chairs were purchased and a new fryer with grant money from Oktoberfest. Talking about cleaning the land across from the church.

Unfinished Business – Plumbing repair in the parsonage.

New Business – Motion made, seconded, and voice passed to remove Harold Demien from the Safety Deposit Box at Commerce Bank in Wentzville, MO, and add Rick Pohlmann.

Closing Devotion

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Finke

**May Services of Silence and
Prayer & Confession and Absolution**

Dedicated quiet prayer time teaches us to slow down and express faith by experiencing a moment when all our business, all our desires to do and move, and all our wants for novelty and entertainment are put on pause. It's just you and the Father.

Practicing Christian discipline is a year-round struggle, not just confined to Lent. We have three additional Services of Silence and Prayer scheduled: May 5th, 19th, and 26th.

Consider joining us on Fridays from 9:00—9:35 a.m. for prayer service. Stay as long as the office is open on Fridays for private prayer time.

After the prayer service Pastor will be providing a time for private confession & absolution. This God-given Christian practice is when you have an opportunity to confess the sins that are weighing you down, to a confidential place, to hear the announcement of the forgiveness of God from the office of the pastoral ministry. The words of forgiveness are truly the Word of God for you and your forgiveness that you might trust in his love and grace.

Do you know someone who needs a moment of silence and a chance to talk to God in a safe environment? Invite them to pray with you.



Member Biography Corner

Mark Wehmeier



How long have you been at St. Paul's?

My wife and I have been members of St. Paul's since we moved to New Melle in 1996, when we moved into the house we had built in Callaway Valley.

What do you do and enjoy doing at St. Paul's?

I am currently the head usher and elder at St. Paul's, which I consider to be an honor that the congregation has enough faith in me to carry out the responsibilities of these jobs. I enjoy going to the different functions and meetings that Pastor Maxx has started at our church. This has made my faith in Jesus Christ so much stronger and has increased my knowledge of the scripture.

I enjoy being a part of the Oktoberfest and being a part of all the different projects we have going on at our church. Getting together with fellow members outside of the church, like going to fish fries during Lent is a great time, too.

What do you enjoy about being a member at St. Paul's?

Going to church on Sunday at St. Paul's is something I look forward to each week and the great service Pastor Maxx bring us. Also, I enjoy the chance to be with other people that are not only members but also friends. I was very impressed with the Fire Starters Out-reach class.

What is something interesting about yourself or a hobby?

I retired from Ford Motor Company after 30 years of employment when the Hazelwood Assembly Plant shut down permanently. I was 49 years old and soon found out that I would have to get another job for financial reasons. I took advantage of Ford's education/vocational incentive program and became a truck driver with a CDL Class A license and worked at a company for eight years. All those endless hours on the road got the best of me. So, I accepted a job at True Manufacturing on third shift and worked for another eight years. I retired there at 65, and since November, I have been a school bus driver for the Wentzville School District. I had no idea how much work it would be to drive 68 grade school kids to and from school during the week (LOL). Thankfully, no issues with Middle and High School grades...Praise the Lord.

For fun and relaxation, I love to take my pontoon boat out on Callaway Lake and go fishing. Small and/or large-mouth bass are my "fish of choice" ...or on hot summer days, I like to just float on the lake or tie up with other neighbors' boats.

I also love to take a vacation trip with my wife once a year to get away and relax. We love the white sandy beaches of Gulf Shores/Fort Morgan or any other place on the gulf coast of Florida. Every now and then, we try to go on a three- or four-day weekend getaway.

Lastly, I enjoy going to Blues hockey games and Cardinal baseball games downtown. Though many times, I am happy as a lark being able to stay home, work in the yard, spending time in my man cave or sitting in my hot tub.

Note about future member biographies: We plan to highlight one member each month, starting with our leadership. Then we will move on to our office staff, and eventually every member of St. Paul's, so you can start writing your biography now, using the questions from Mark's biography above!

FireStarters

Fire Starters is St. Paul's new Out-reach class. This class is where we bring in new members, answer questions for the curious, or just offer those outside our community a chance to get to know us.

Fire Starters is also our In-reach class. It is a chance for the disciples of St. Paul's to be reignited for the mission and go back to the basics, but also to learn more about their own story and ask important questions, as well as exercise their evangelism muscles by bringing and walking with their friends and family.

We sincerely ask and hope that all of you will participate in these classes as members, even if you do not have someone to bring. We all need the word, discipleship, and to be set on fire.



June 4th

Fire Starter's - Ignition Class Kickoff

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Come see what St. Paul's is all about and learn more about our story of faith, and how the story goes on!

Lunch provided

Childcare will be available

Materials and resources provided for guests and visitors for free

**Kindle the fire with our follow-up classes before
Worship**

8:45 a.m.—9:45 a.m.

June 11th, June 18th & June 25th

If you can't make all the classes that's okay! We will offer the class multiple times a year, so you can get it all. Come to the Igniters class in the fall and finish with the Kindling class in the winter. Though it is always great to do them all at once, we want you to know your relationship with St. Paul's is more than just a class, but an ongoing process of discipleship as we walk together.

Note: Fire Starters is our "New Members" class in that its completion is required for membership next steps. If you are desiring membership and cannot make all the classes, we will work with you to complete the classes and be brought into membership in a way that works for everyone.

If you do not desire to be a member, but are sincerely looking to learn about our faith, AWESOME! We will not sneakily "make you a member" or sign up for things you don't want. We are just grateful to have you join us!



Easter at St. Paul's—April 9, 2023



Pastor Maxx preached about the empty tomb found on Easter morning and celebrated by Christians worldwide, who know that Jesus truly is our RISEN SAVIOR. The various possible sites for his entombment were places Pastor Maxx was able to visit on his trip to Israel earlier this year.



THE PERFECT WAY TO CELEBRATE EASTER!

On Easter morning our church was occupied by 65 very happy people—members of St. Paul’s, their family members, friends, and visitors, who repeatedly chanted: “Christ is Risen, He is Risen, Indeed! Halleluiah!”

The church was decorated by donated lilies and palms, and behind them an empty wooden cross stood to remind everyone of Jesus’ suffering and death before he rose from the tomb to pay for our sins and save us all.

For the Prelude, the choir sang “Angels, Roll the Rock Away”.

Jon Erickson led the processional, carrying the cross. Children, accompanied by their parents, brought small crosses made from palm leaves to the altar. They were followed by Pastor Maxx, while the congregation sang “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”.

Our **EASTER LILIES** were to the glory of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ and were given by the following:

- Mark & Charlene Wehmeier in memory Elmer & Arlene Wehmeier and Glen & JoAnn Grieshaber
- Janie & Pastor Maxx Fisher in thanksgiving for our EMT’s, NMFD, and local police
- JoAnn Hammel in memory of loving and faithful parents
- Carol Oberaitis in memory of her parents Rev. Edwin & Loretta Fritze
- Ted & Jane Nadler to the glory of our risen Savior
- The Mike Schmidt family in memory of Barb, Dee, and Steve Schmidt
- The Diederich and Schmidt families in memory of Kenny Diederich
- Randy Pohlmann in memory of Pohlmann
- The Schwede family in memory Esther Schwede
- Carolyn Schwede in memory her husband Roger Schwede
- Marilyn Finke in memory of family
- The Chappell family to the glory of our Risen Lord
- Bill & Jackie Eslinger to the glory God
- Harold & Sharon Demien in thankfulness of the baptism of their great granddaughter Riley Ann Demien on March 5 at Zion Lutheran Church
- Rhonda DeGeal in memory of Glen & Julie Rolf
- Diana Eschenbrenner in thankfulness that Christ is risen
- Larry & Vicki Zuhone in memory of Alvin, Virginia, Kay, and Brenda Auping
- Jeff & Annie Schneider to the glory of God and in memory of Gerald & Rose Lee Jones, Joe & Doris Schneider, and the Lampiasi family
- Sherry Brandes in memory of her father Roger Brandes, her sister Sheila, her friend Delbert Ellerman, and other loved ones gone before
- Erick Kase in loving memory of his wife Carol

The **LARGE PALMS** were donated by Barb Auping.

Israel 2024

Pastor Maxx is planning a trip to Israel June 4th – 13th, with the possibility of an extension trip to Egypt June 13th – 18th.

You will see Caesarea by the Sea, Megiddo, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, Chorazin, Magdala, Nof Ginosar, Gideon's Spring, Jordan River Valley, Jericho, Dead Sea, Valley of the Shadow, Bethlehem, Western Wall Tunnel, Temple Mount (conditions permitting), Shepherds' Fields, the Church of the Nativity, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, Mount Zion, the Garden Tomb and much more!

The trip will cost around \$4,346 for the Israel portion of the trip with the extension being an additional \$1,398 (approximately). The earlier you register, the more you save.

If you are interested in walking where Jesus walked, going deeper into scriptures, and fellowship with your fellow disciples as we traverse the Holy Land, then this is the trip for you!

Pastor Maxx says, "I can only speak from experience about how personally meaningful and impactful my trips to the Holy Land have been for me, and I look forward to sharing it with as many people as I can! Along with the trip we will have preparatory Bible studies and devotional times to spiritually prepare ourselves for the pilgrimage."



Anyone interested in traveling with Pastor Maxx to Israel, should call him at the office (636-828-5616), or call or text him on his cell phone (816-216-5891), or email him at maxxjofish@gmail.com to sign up or ask questions. A sign-up sheet is also available in the church narthex.





A Few Notes from Pastor Maxx:

Costs (starting at \$4,346 for the Israel portion of the trip and \$1,398 for the Egypt extension) are approximate and are subject to some changes and additional fees.

Itineraries are also approximate. Israel is a foreign country and we are subjected to situations on the ground that may change our initial itineraries.

You will see Caesarea by the Sea, Megiddo, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, Chorazin, Magdala, Nof Ginosar, Gideon's Spring, Jordan River Valley, Jericho, Dead Sea, Valley of the Shadow, Bethlehem, Western Wall Tunnel, Temple Mount (conditions permitting), Shepherds'

Fields, the Church of the Nativity, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, Mount Zion, the Garden Tomb and much more!

While this trip is open to everyone, there will be a lot of walking and stair-climbing of some duration. While you can do a lot, there may be some occasions where you will not be able to participate. Consider your health and wellness before signing up for the trip. Being elderly is not a disqualifier.

The Egypt Extension is an optional addition to the Israel trip. If you opt out of the Egypt Extension that is okay. You will be safely transported back to the U.S., as the Egypt group stays behind.

Costs do not include your own personal spending or lunches. We will discuss more about these costs in our first group meeting.

A schedule for the Question & Answer meetings and the devotional schedule will be out by June.

There will be a "Israel Sign-up Sheet" in the narthex for those interested in going. In the meantime, here is a link you can use to find out more:

<https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/hl24060424l60524#.ZFUco6DMKUm>

A downloadable brochure is also available on this website.



What's Included

- *All Inclusive Pricing*
- *Breakfast and Dinner Daily*
- *Deluxe A/C Motor Coaches*
- *Domestic Airfare*
- *Entrance and Program Fees*
- *First Class Hotels*
- *Fuel Surcharges and Gov't Taxes*
- *Gratuities*
- *Guided Tours*
- *Live Audio Headsets*
- *Overseas Airport Transfers*
- *Study Guide*
- *Administrative Fees*

Three New Members Join St. Paul's—Sunday, April 16



Formal Reception of New Members: Pastor Maxx asked the new member candidates the questions leading to official membership in the St. Paul's church body.

Pastor Maxx Introduces Our New Members to the Congregation: (left to right) Scott & Pam Alexander and Don Horstmann.

Following the church service there was an informal reception for our new family members in the church hall, where everyone had the opportunity to join in fellowship and share some light refreshments.



...AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

ABOVE LEFT: Jeff Schneider, Vicki Zuhone, and Don Horstmann.

ABOVE CENTER: Janie Fisher, Jill Williams, Mary Bethel, Larry Zuhone, Don Horstmann, Carolyn Schwede, Dorothy Caswell, and Carol Oberaitis.

ABOVE RIGHT: Pam Alexander, Amber Vossen, Marilyn Finke, and Jackie Eslinger.

RIGHT: Mike Vossen, Scott Alexander, Rick Pohlmann, Randy Pohlmann, and Pastor Maxx Fisher.



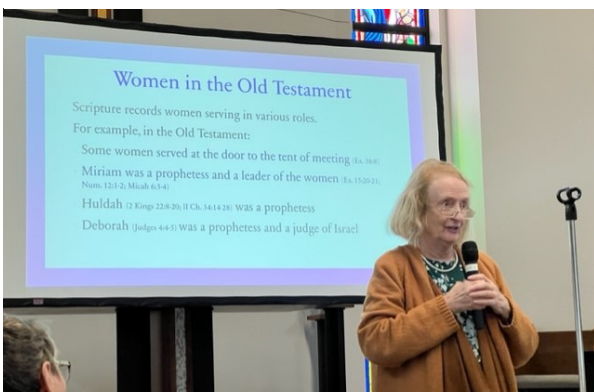
LWML St. Charles Zone Rally

BELOW: On Saturday, April 22, three of our St. Paul's Ladies Aid officers, Co-Presidents Carolyn Schwede and Jackie Eslinger, and Secretary Sherry Brandes attended the Fall Rally at Chapel of the Cross in St. Peters.



ABOVE LEFT: President Angie Gielow led the business meeting.

ABOVE CENTER: Zone Counselor Rev. Jeremy Klaustermeier, Pastor from St. John's Lutheran Church, Warrenton, led the opening and closing devotions.



ABOVE: Dr. Gillian Bond, Concordia Seminary Director of the Deaconess Program, taught attendees about the Biblical connections for the roles of a deaconess and what those roles entail. **BELOW:** She also surprised us, when one of the slides she shared included Deaconess Janie Fisher (second from the right on the back row).



REGISTER FOR VBS



TO LAUNCH INTO ADVENTURE!

Immanuel Lutheran Church
632 East Hwy N, Wentzville, MO 63385

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION CLOSES ON MAY 21, 2022

Mark your calendar for June 12-16 from 9:00AM-12:00PM
VBS is open to kids from 3 years old to those going into 5th grade
Cost is \$30 per participant

Use the following link to register participants,
and to apply to serve as a volunteer.

vbspro.events/p/immanuel2023

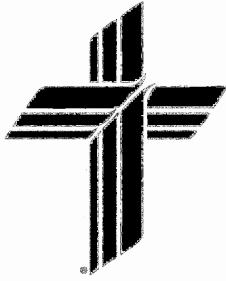
Questions? Please contact
Janie Fisher at jfisher@lsw.org




St. Paul's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 70
New Melle, MO 63365

"A new command I give
you: Love one another."
John 13:34



St. Paul's Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod

David taught the ladies A LOT about the Middle East they never knew and probably never would have guessed. He summed up his presentation with four lessons learned about the Middle East: 1) There is history here! 2) This is the Holy Land! 3) Food is good here! and 4) Stereotypes will be challenged!

The ladies asked many questions and David answered them all!

Ladies Aid Special Guest Speaker



Prior to the April 13 Ladies Aid meeting, our own St. Paul's member, Lieutenant Colonel David Chappell used an awesome slide presentation to enlighten his audience about his time in Kuwait, as a Missouri National Guard Civil Affairs Officer. He also spoke about Civil Affairs in Qatar and Jordan. His pictures and details were interesting and eye-opening to all those present.



David even explained the flags of the three countries:
Top: Kuwait
Middle: Qatar
Bottom: Jordan

