

◆ Pastor Stephen Zeller.....

PASTOR'S PAGE

Lent Already?

Almost as quickly as Christmas seems to come and go, we just as quickly turn around and begin the Lent season!

It's always helpful for me to think about where we've been and how the church seasons shape us: Advent points us to God's promises of what is to come and reminds us of God's faithfulness as we wait and prepare. Christmas shows us how God puts on flesh in order to be here on earth with us. Epiphany begins to show us who Jesus is and the prophecies that his presence fulfills, with the weeks after Epiphany beginning to show us this new way of living that we are called into.

Lent shows us why all of this matters.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18 this year) where we hear the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Those words help us recognize the frailty of human existence, the reality of our personal and collective sin, and our deep need for Jesus, who forgives our sin and gifts us with hope for life eternal.

As the season begins we are called to turn our attention to "fasting, prayer, and almsgiving," activities meant to quiet our minds, still our hearts, and draw near to God.

In an ever-ironic twist to that, we will have additional activities here at St. Paul's to help you focus and settle into this rhythm of life. In addition to our regular Saturday and Sunday worship services and Sunday School classes, you are invited to join us at church on Wednesdays. The community gathers here as the churches of the Cole Camp Area Church Alliance take turns hosting breakfast - **this year starting at 8:30 am**, a little later than in years past. We then return to the building on Wednesday evenings for supper at 6:00 pm, worship at 7:00 pm, and refreshments and fellowship to follow the service.

It's just around the corner, and I hope you'll be able to join us for this meaningful season.

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

Mid Week Lenten Service

Ash Wednesday.....February 18
 Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
 1st week of Lent.....February 25
 2nd week of Lent.....March 4
 3rd week of Lent.....March 11
 4th week of Lent.....March 18
 5th week of Lent.....March 25
 All services will begin at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall



Palm Sunday March 29 at 10:00am Procession of Palms
 Maundy Thursday April 2 at 7:00pm Stripping of the Altar
 Good Friday..... April 3 at 7:00pm Service of Darkness
 Easter Saturday..... April 4 at 5:30pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunrise..... April 5 at 7:00am Breakfast to follow
 Easter Sunday April 5 at 10:00am Holy Communion



LENTEN BREAKFAST

There will be a Community Lenten Breakfast held at St. Paul's Church each Wednesday morning beginning on February 25th at 8:30am held in the Fellowship Hall. This is sponsored by the local Church Alliance and there will be a different host each week. We encourage everyone to attend!



LENTEN FELLOWSHIP

A soup supper will be served before each Midweek Lenten worship service. The supper will begin at 6:00pm. After worship cookies, coffee and hot cocoa will be served in the Fellowship Hall.



Please check the schedule for a list of volunteers who will be helping to ensure our Lenten worship is a success.

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IN THE CHURCH

SOUPER BOWL

The Cole Camp Food Pantry has challenged local churches and organizations to compete in the annual Souper Bowl. Whoever collects the most food items by the day of the other “big game”

on February 8th will be the winner of the annual traveling trophy. Once again this year, every congregation is invited to bring any kind of non-perishable food staples: soup and crackers, instant potatoes, canned meat, canned vegetables or fruit, peanut butter, jelly, breakfast items, baking items, etc. Just about any and everything will be useful. HOWEVER, the Pantry always receives an abundance of mac & cheese and Ramen noodles, so focusing on other items will be more helpful to them. Items can be brought to the church and placed under the goal posts. Let's see if we can return the trophy to St. Paul's!

thrivent[®]

For information on Choice Dollars visit Thrivent.com/choicedollars or call 1-800-847-4836 and say, “Thrivent Choice”.



LENT BREAKFAST - NEW TIME!!

The Cole Camp Area Church Alliance (CCACA) is once again hosting a weekly breakfast during the Lenten season. Everyone is invited to this free breakfast on the Wednesdays of Lent: **February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**. Each breakfast is held here at St. Paul's, but each week is hosted by different congregations. St. Paul's will host on March 25 and we'll need volunteers to contribute breakfast foods that day. **This year the breakfasts will begin at 8:30 am**, which is later than in years past. Come and start your Wednesdays in Lent with a free breakfast, a short devotion, and fellowship with friends from the community. A free-will offering is collected to support the work of the Church Alliance. See you there!



IN THE CHURCH

RETIREMENT

After 65 years of playing, Lois Viebrock has announced her retirement from playing the organ here at St. Paul's. Lois has been an important part of our worship life and we are grateful for all the time and talent that she has shared with us! We are working on plans to celebrate and thank her here in the near future, so stay tuned. But in the meantime, please be sure to thank her for a lifetime of music in our church!



Summer CAMP

SUMMER CAMP

There are lots of opportunities to take part in a church camp this summer, so be sure to check them all out:

MID - MO BIBLE CAMP

Bible Camp will take place **June 12-16** at Camp Rising Sun in the Lake of the Ozarks State Park. This is for youth who have completed 4th through 9th grade. More information to come!

CAMP TOMAH SHINGA

Camp Tomah Shinga is our Lutheran camp here in mid-Missouri. Located in Junction City, Kansas, this camp has served the Central States Synod for more than a half century. Less than a four hour drive away, this camp offers many opportunities throughout the summer for youth campers of all ages. Check out what they have to offer at <https://camptomahshinga.com>.

CAMP WORSHIP

On Sunday, March 22, Jordan Valentine, the Executive Director of Camp Tomah Shinga, will join us here at St. Paul's for Sunday School and Worship. During the Sunday School hour, she will lead our kids in some fun camp games and activities, and during worship she will share about what's happening at camp. Our worship service will be filled with stories and songs meant to remind us of the joy and power of camp. Be sure not to miss it!





IN THE CHURCH



LITTLE BLESSINGS DAY CARE

Little Blessings Day Care wishes to thank all who donated items from the Angel Tree over the past three weeks. Also, we wish to thank all who donated so generously to the Annual Meeting Free Will Offering. The monetary donations totaled \$713.00!! Thank YOU!!

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The Women of the ELCA wish to thank all who assisted with the luncheon served at the Annual Meeting: Glenalee, Sharel and Debbie for preparing the chili, Ruth Ann for the vegetable soup, those who donated the many desserts, and those who set-up, served, and helped with the clean-up. It takes many hands to make an event a big success!! **Thanks!**

ENVELOPES

The 2026 Offering Envelopes are available in the Link. If there isn't a box for you and you would like 2026 offering envelopes, please contact Russell Oelrichs or the church office to request a box.

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS

The 2025 giving statements are available for pickup in the Link. If you have questions about them or believe that you should have received one and can't find it, please speak to Russell Oelrichs.



NEW BABY

Congratulations to Josh and Katie Jackson on the birth of a son, Cade Elliott. He was born on January 6. Cade is the brother of Creed and Clay.

IN THE ARMS OF CHRIST

Please continue to pray for the family of Marie Viebrock, who passed away on December 23, 2025.



IN THE CHURCH

ADDRESS CHANGE

RON AND KRISTA POE
32560 HIGHWAY 52
COLE CAMP, MO 65325



ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

Treasurer

Erin Oelrichs

Council Members

Greg Bredehoeft
Lynn Schear

Cemetery Trustee

Cory Rice

Synod Assembly Delegates

Glen Webb
Rhonda Schlesselman

Nominating Committee

Angela Alcorn Allen Oelrichs
Bob Farrington Lesa Warden

A special thank you to those who served our church in 2025! You may have been on the council, you may have been on a committee, you may have been a volunteer or you may have shared a prayer. But each and every one of you is very important to each and every one of us. Thank you!





COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY CASUAL SERVICE

Saturday worship begins at 5:30pm in the Chapel. There will be no service on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Welcome!

"ONE STICH AT A TIME"

The Sewing Group will not meet again until spring. Please check St. Paul's communications for the next time they meet.



SUNBEAM

The Sunbeam Committee will meet on Wednesday, **February 25** at 3:00pm.

FREE YOGA CLASS

Every Monday at 6:30pm at St. Paul's in the Fellowship Hall, a free yoga class will be offered. Thanks to new local doctor and certified Yoga instructor, Stephanie Schirding, for offering her time! This is a beginner's class.

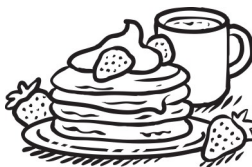
CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council will meet on **February 11** at 6:00 PM in the meeting room.



ESTHER CIRCLE

The Esther Circle will meet on **February 16** at 7:00 PM at Sharel Wienburg's home.



SHROVE SUNDAY PANCAKE LUNCH

On Sunday, **February 15**, the Luther League is hosting a congregational Shrove Sunday pancake lunch to celebrate the last Sunday before Lent begins. It will be right after worship in the Fellowship Hall, and include pancakes, sausages, hash browns, and more. It's our own little Mardi Gras celebration and all are invited!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Committee will meet on **February 11** at 3:30 PM in the meeting room.



Casual
Worship



DETAILED TREASURER'S REPORT

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual as of the end of December 2025

	Actual Thru December	Annual Budget	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget	Target %
Benevolence Receipts					Note A
ELCA	6,675.00	7,400.00	-725.00	90.2%	
World Hunger	1,925.92	2,000.00	-74.08	96.3%	
Hope 5 One	7,253.43	5,000.00	2,253.43	145.07%	
CC Food Pantry Donations	2,330.00	1,500.00	830.00	155.33%	
Seniors of North Benton Co.	1,020.00	-	1,020.00	100.0%	
Other	260.00	-	260.00	100.0%	
Total Benevolence Receipts	19,464.35	15,900.00	3,564.35	122.42%	
Offering					
HP Offering	212,560.82	223,913.00	-11,352.18	94.93%	91.67%
Building Fund 5%	11,187.46	11,785.00	-597.54	94.93%	91.67%
Total Offering	223,748.28	235,698.00	-11,949.72	94.93%	
Building Use	2,655.00	2,750.00	-95.00	96.55%	
Fair Stand, net	7,235.05	5,000.00	2,235.05	144.7%	
Float	952.00	800.00	152.00	119.0%	
Interest	12,590.87	0.00	12,590.87	100.0%	
Insurance Proceeds	25,040.38	0.00	25,040.38	100.0%	
Miscellaneous	793.27	0.00	793.27	100.0%	
Total Income	292,479.20	260,148.00	32,331.20	112.43%	
Expenses	Note B				
	643,923.43	260,148.00	383,775.43	247.52%	
Net Income	-351,444.23	0.00	-351,444.23		

Cash and Investment Balance - December 31, 2025

	Home Purpose	Building	Memorial	Crisis	Little Blessings	Seminary
	Note C		Note D		Note E	
Cash and Investment Balances	79,166.25	58,579.92	20,132.62	3,172.30	87,691.91	8,888.22

More financial information on page 9.



TREASURER, CONTINUED

Note A: As of December 31, 2025, 100% of the year has elapsed, however, offerings as a percent of budget are only 91.67%. This indicates that offerings are approximately \$11.950 short of budgeted amounts.

Note B : Includes \$253,802.85 in roof replacement expenses and \$12,800.00 for parsonage window replacement (both of which were paid from insurance proceeds) and \$82,162.58 in property acquisition costs. Additionally, property/liability insurance premiums of \$44,789.90 were paid which is an increase of \$24,000 from 2024.

Note C: Includes \$2,468.96 of Communities of Calling Funds.

Note D: Includes restricted amounts of \$15,000 for Little Blessings and \$1,460.75 for Sunday School.

Note E: Includes \$85,334.89 in grant funds.





◆ Send a note.....

NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS

Kris Barnes
(friend of Julie Cronin)

Gene Beckman

Jon Beckman

Deanna Browning

Joe Campbell

Scott Cash

Cliff Eckhoff

Debra Eichler

Ron Eickhoff

Joseph Fuelling
(nephew of Paul Fuelling)

Jerome Goosen

Adam Gumbel
(son of Jim & Kim Gumbel)

Karen Haase
(sister-in-law of Gene Beckman)

Larry Haase
(brother-in-law of Gene Beckman)

Kathy Harms

Gordon Ives

Greg Ives

Norene Ives

Joyce Jones
(sister of Connie Gerken)

Hazel Karstons

Marvin Logan
(brother of Gale Logan)

Kyle Luetjen

David Mobely
(brother-in-law of Randy Healan)

Dennis & Claudia Moellman

Mary Ann Oelrichs
(grandmother of Nicholas Dieckman)

Jackie Ross
(sister of Randy Healan)

Kylie Simon

Carmilla Swaim & husband
(friends of Debbie Eckhoff)

Robert Tatum

Nathan Vanderlinden

Judie VonHolten

Mike Wingerter
(brother of Susan Goosen)

Nursing Home

Earl Bauer (*EW Thompson #47*)

Gene Beckman (*GSCC #311*)

Vern Dean Bohling (*Anew #4*)

Shirley Cash (*Anew #18*)

Arlene Schlesselman (*GSCC #213*)

Larry & Judy Schlesselman (*Anew #19*)

Florence VonHolten (*GSCC#207*)





MILITARY

MILITARY

Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton

(son of Matt & Isabel Hamilton and
grandson of Judie VonHolten)

Whiteman Airforce Base

Private Braydn Hood

(grandson of Connie Gerken)

National Guard

MSgt. Jason Ostberg

(son-in-law of Suzanne Lutjen)

15319 Proteus Street

San Antonio, TX 78245

Lt. Col. Ron Poe

32560 Highway 52

Cole Camp, MO 65325

SSG Nick Smith

Whiteman Airforce Base

Major Joseph Strathman

1084 Strada Cristallo

Henderson, NV 89011





◆ A Time To Celebrate.....

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

BIRTHDAYS:

02/02	Janice Gerken
02/02	Kevin Tatum
02/03	Clyde Alcorn
02/03	Wayne Viebrock
02/03	Jeanette VonHolten
02/04	Amber Carver
02/06	Lauren Brown
02/06	Joyce Schlesselmann
02/06	Matthew VonHolten
02/07	Chloe Daily
02/08	Scott Cash
02/09	Debbie Eckhoff
02/11	Dennis Balke
02/11	Ida Oelrichs
02/11	Lesa Richards
02/12	Preston Carver
02/13	Violet Kruep
02/13	Gary Viebrock
02/14	Vern Bohling
02/17	Lauren Bailey
02/17	Julie Cronin
02/18	Wyatt Gooch
02/18	Susan Heimsoth
02/18	Joyce Webb
02/19	Jeffrey Cronin
02/19	Garrett Elliott
02/20	Lee Ann Ramel
02/21	Ainsley Kullman
02/21	Braden Poe
02/21	Larry Viebrock
02/23	Jean Healan
02/24	Jacob Brockfeld
02/25	Zoey Gates

BAPTISMS:

02/01	Ronald Eckhoff
02/01	Korbin Kyle
02/02	Lenny Gerken
02/05	Tucker Nash
02/05	Christina Oelrichs
02/05	Owen Rehmer
02/07	Tara Anderson
02/07	Randy Viebrock
02/10	Audra Parney
02/11	Donald Eckhoff
02/11	Scott Gerken
02/11	Violet Kruep
02/11	Mandy Schlesselmann
02/11	Carter Wienberg
02/13	Ryan Schlesselman
02/14	Nova Harris
02/14	Carol Oelrichs
02/14	Clark Oelrichs
02/18	Bryan Harms
02/19	Noah Gerken
02/20	Doug Canida
02/22	Paul Kelly
02/23	Alex Cash
02/23	Bruce Wienberg
02/27	Janice Gerken
02/27	Owen Smith
02/28	Philip Luetjen

ANNIVERSARIES:

02/14	Randy & Sarah Keith (21)
02/16	Cecil & Joyce Schlesselmann (53)
02/20	Mike & Laura Morrison (5)
02/22	Dewey & Kay Jobe (67)





SCHEDULE FOR LENT

After Lenten Service

There will be the traditional fellowship time (cookies, coffee and hot chocolate) following each Lenten Service beginning on February 25th. To insure that there are enough cookies each week, each family is asked to provide cookies according to the following schedule (based on the first letter of your last name). Additionally, please note the organizations asked to serve for each of the five Lenten Services.

February 25.....A-E.....WELCA Executive Board Serving
March 4.....F-H.....St. Paul's Youth Serving
March 11.....I-P.....Evangelism Committee Serving
March 18.....R-T.....Congregational Council Serving
March 25.....V-Z.....Esther Circle Serving

Lenten Soup Suppers

Lenten "simple supper", as it in past years, will be served prior to each Lenten service beginning on Wednesday, February 25 through March Wednesday, March 25. Serving will begin at 6:00 p.m. Two choices of soups/chili will be served each along with sandwiches or hot dogs for your "simple supper". You will find on the offering insert an **opportunity for helpers** to set up/serve each week, along with **volunteers** to prepare soups/chili. The power of **YES!**

Pastor Stephen Zeller

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
205 West Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 250
Cole Camp, MO 65325

660 - 668 - 3537

(church office)

660 - 668 - 0881

(Pr. Stephen's home)

301 - 787 - 7993

(Pr. Stephen's cell)

Office Hours:

Tuesday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Wednesday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Thursday 8:30am - 12:00pm

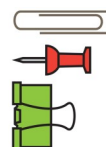
Friday 8:30am - 12:00pm

StephenPZeller@gmail.com

Email: office@stpauls.me

Website: www.stpauls.me

OFFICE HOURS AND
COMMUNICATION



◆ Susan Goosen, Church Council Secretary

COUNCIL MINUTES

Congregational Council Minutes Wednesday, December 10, 2025

The Congregational Council of St. Paul's Lutheran Church met on Wednesday December 10, 2025. Those present were Chairman Jake Jackson, Pastor Stephen Zeller, Roy Wagner, Josh Jackson, Krista Poe, Susan Goosen and Melinda Strathman.

Call to order: Chairman Jake Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:50.

Devotions: Discussion on Articles VII, VIII and IX from the Augsburg Confession led by Pastor.

Minutes: Minutes of the November 12th meeting were reviewed and amended. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Roy and seconded by Josh. Motion carried, report filed.

Financial Report: Norma Schlesselman gave the financial report. A motion to approve the report was made by Melinda and seconded by Josh. Motion carried, report filed.

Pastor's report:

Upcoming Events:

Everett Schweitzer baptism: 12/21

Winterfest: 12/19

Continuing Education:

Crossings Conference – St. Louis: Jan. 11-14

Vacation Dates: December 26-31 (Lay –led worship Dec. 28)

Baptism: On Sunday, Nov 16, Pastor presided over the baptism Grace Fowler, daughter of Alyssa and Jacob Fowler.

Committee reports:

Congregational Ministry and Evangelism: Cabin for Christmas photo op. Winterfest will be held 12/19 at 5:30.

Worship: Council will serve Communion for Christmas Eve service.

Parish Education: Christmas Program practices are under way.

Property Management:

Siding and addition on storage building: Roy has met with city; a property line will need to be determined before we are able to move forward with this project.

Elevette: Plans for removal of old elevette and replacement are in progress.

Snow removal: No one has been found yet to do the snow removal.

Propane: What is in the tanks will be used up before we switch



◆ continued from page 14.....

COUNCIL CONTINUED

propane companies.

Leak: Someone from the roofing co. came and fixed the flashing.

Cemetery Damage: Viebrock headstone has been repaired. Still waiting on the repair of the St. Paul's stone.

Constitution committee: The committee will present new changes of the constitution 30 days prior to the annual meeting for approval before voting on it.

Offering envelopes: No changes will be made this year.

Insurance Committee: Council discussed creating a committee to look into what are the best insurance rates for the Church.

Parsonage: The fair market value of the parsonage has been determined as \$5500 for the house and furnishing allowance set at \$2000.

Next meeting: January 7, 2026 at 6:00.

Adjournment: Josh made the motion to adjourn and Roy 2nd. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:41 with the Lord's

Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Goosen
Church Council Secretary

Pastor:
Stephen Zeller
660-668-0881

Editor:
Lindsay Lee
660-668-3537

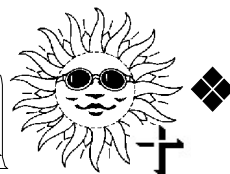
Church Office:
660-668-3537

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Jake Jackson,	President
Justin Tinney,	Vice-President /Evangelism
Erin Oelrichs	Treasurer/Stewardship
Susan Goosen,	Secretary
Melinda Strathman,	Worship & Music
Kelly Viebrock,	Property
Roy Wagner,	Property
Stephen Zeller,	Pastor
Greg Bredehoeft.....	
Lynn Schear.....	



St. Paul's Sunbeam



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
205 West Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 250
Cole Camp, Missouri 65325

Phone: 660-668-3537

Website: www.stpauls.me

E-mail: office@stpauls.me

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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St. Paul's Mission Statement
"BEING TRANSFORMED BY GOD'S
GRACE TO LOVE AND SERVE."

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion at the Altar

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany
Holy Communion by Stations

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday
Holy Communion by Stations

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion at the Altar

Sunday, February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion by Stations

Come! Worship at St. Paul's

Every Saturday Evening
5:30 P.M. - Casual Worship

+ + + + +

Every Sunday Morning
10:00 A.M. - Worship

You can also find our worship services
online, or call us to receive a DVD copy:

www.facebook.com/StPaulsColeCamp

www.youtube.com/StPaulsColeCamp



— Cole Camp, Missouri —