

◆ Pastor Stephen Zeller.....

PASTOR'S PAGE

Celebrating a Semiquincentennial

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

This is the second sentence of the Declaration of Independence, signed by the delegates of the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, officially severing ties with Great Britain and establishing the United States of America. Even though it's the second sentence of the document, it's probably the most well-known. Nearly every student and citizen of this country has heard something about *all men* (humans?) *created equal* and *life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*. These are ideals that our country and its citizens have tried to achieve. These ideals are the foundation of our country, and even today we strive to live them out in all that we do.

As we near this 250th anniversary of the independence of this country I can't help but reflect on who we are as a society, whether or not these words have proven to be true, and how our faith in Jesus Christ shapes our understanding of our life together. There are so many passages of scripture that come to mind as I think about how we live into these ideals, but one of the first ones that occurred to me was the gospel passage that we hear every year on the anniversary of the protestant Reformation:

³¹ *Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* ³³ *They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ~John 8:31-33*



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IN THE CHURCH

(Continued from page 1)

As Christians, we confess that we have been made free through our faith in Jesus Christ. But often we are like the Jews in this passage who have to ask Jesus, "What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" Made free? What do you mean, Jesus? We ARE free!

Jesus reminds the Jews in the verses that follow about how they are enslaved to sin, and that it is only through the Son that they can truly be made free. In that same way I believe Jesus wants us to not take freedom for granted. We, too, are enslaved by sin. And sometimes that sin hinders the freedom of others. There are plenty of people around us who still don't enjoy the freedoms referenced in the Declaration of Independence. Not all human beings are treated as equals in our society. Plenty of people among us aren't afforded the same life, liberty, and happiness that many of us enjoy. Sometimes we work hard to break the chains of bondage for others. Sometimes we find ourselves complicit in the injustice. Yet, we continue to work for those foundational

ideas that our founders hoped for. And we do so by living into the truth of what Jesus stood for: forgiveness, mercy, unconditional love. Truth that sets us free, each and every day. Truth that brings hope to a broken and hurting world. May we always be an example of that truth as we live among one another in this country and celebrate who we are!

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 STITCH AT A TIME"

The Sewing Group will meet every **Monday** at 9:00 am in the Gathering Space. All are welcome to join!



HEALTH CARE

The Benton County Health Department will be here every **Thursday** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



WELCA

The **WELCA** Quarterly Meeting will be held on July 1st in the Gathering Space.





IN THE CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING



The Church Council will meet on **July 8th** at 6:00 pm in the Meeting Room.

ESTHER CIRCLE

The Esther Circle will meet on Monday, **July 20th** at Janice Gerken's Home at 7:00 p.m.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



The Worship and Music Committee will meet on **July 22** at 2:30 pm in the Meeting Room.

thrivent

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

THANK YOU!

Our hearts are so full!

Thank you so very much for the prayers, words of support, acts of kindness and love.



Thank you, Gale, Shirley & Jill

ADDRESS UPDATE

Mitch and Kelli Crawford
5223 W 16th St.
Greeley, CO 80634



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for Vacation Bible School **July 20-24!** Registration can be completed using the QR code or through the link: <https://www.myvbs.org/stpaulsvbs2026-magnified>. Youth from Pre-K (potty-trained, please!) through 6th grade are invited to a fun week of VBS for the theme of "Magnified" where we will explore God's awesome creation to discover just how big and powerful God really is! We'll gather each evening from 6:00-8:30 pm here at St. Paul's for fun activities, games, crafts, snacks, stories, songs, and more! Mark your calendars! Registration for participants AND volunteers is live online at: <https://www.myvbs.org/stpaulsvbs2026-magnified>. Anyone in 7th grade and up is invited and welcome to volunteer at VBS, but please register to do so online. Contact Emily Kullman with any questions.



SUNBEAM



The Sunbeam Committee will meet on Wednesday, **July 29th** at 2:00pm in the Gathering Space.



IN THE CHURCH

MID-MO BIBLE CAMP

This year's Mid-MO Bible Camp will be Sunday, July 12th - Thursday, July 16th, at the usual location, Camp Rising Sun in Lake of the Ozarks State Park. It's for youth who this summer have completed 4th - 9th grades. Friends are invited! Cost is \$100 per camper, and St. Paul's will pay for half of the fee for our members and friends. Registration forms are on the usher's stands at church. The deadline to register and receive a t-shirt has passed, but you can still submit your registration ASAP to attend. The campers always enjoy homemade cookies and desserts as a snack during the week, so if you can contribute those please bring them to church by Sunday, July 12th. Let Pastor Stephen know if you have any questions!



BIBLES AVAILABLE

In our worship life here at St. Paul's, we most often hear scripture read from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible. Recently that translation has been updated to the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue), which we are

now hearing in worship. That also means the study bibles we were using in our Confirmation class were updated as well and they are no longer printing the older NRSV version. We purchased the new ones (NRSVue) this past year for our confirmation students, but have several of the old versions on hand and would like to find new homes for them. These are softcover Lutheran Study Bibles, NRSV, from Augsburg Fortress. They are a terrific resource with wonderful study notes and more included. New copies cost \$33 (\$45 for the hardcover). We have some copies that are slightly used and some brand new still in the wrapping. A donation would be appreciated (but not required) to go toward the purchase of new copies for next year's Confirmation class (maybe \$10, or whatever you are comfortable contributing). If you would like a copy of the old version, please talk to Pastor Stephen.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE

BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE & SALE

The Cole Camp Area Church Alliance is holding the annual Back to School Clothing Sale on Saturday, **August 1st**, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, here at St. Paul's. You can help in many ways:

Clothing Donations

Drop off gently used clothing here at church for the Back to School Clothing Sale. All clothing is accepted, but clothing for children and youth is always needed. It is greatly appreciated if you can sort and label the donations by gender and size. Donations can be dropped off in trailer behind the church or in the Fellowship Hall during office hours or other activities. (There are signs behind the church directing where to drop off.)

Undies Sundays

In addition to clothing available for purchase, families with young children will be given new undergarments at the Clothing Sale. We are again requesting **financial contributions** instead of in-kind donations. We will purchase bulk clothing items and repackage them into smaller packs to provide for a more equitable distribution of

undergarments to local families. Those contributions can be made at any time, but our Undies Sunday will be the weekend of July 19 & 26. (We will still accept packages of underwear if you have already purchased those items.)

Happy Feet

We will once again offer vouchers for children (until they run out) that will allow them to purchase a new pair of shoes at JCPenny in Sedalia on August 8th. Financial contributions for that can be made to "Happy Feet" and dropped in the offering plate or shoeboxes at the back of the church.

Volunteering

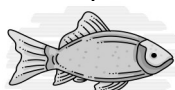
This year we will be sorting and arranging clothing all week, Monday through Friday, July 27 – 31, in preparation for the Clothing Sale on Aug 1. Volunteers are welcome to stop by any day, starting at 9 am, to offer some time sorting. We will also need volunteers the day of the sale to assist shoppers and straighten up the clothing tables and clean up starting at 1:00 pm.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY FISH FRY WITH THE COLE CAMP AREA CHURCH ALLIANCE

The Church Alliance will once again hold their Community Fish Fry on Saturday, July 11th, from 5:00-7:00 pm. It will be held at the First Baptist Church of Cole



FISH FRY

Camp. As this is a community effort with all the area churches participating, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!** Could you volunteer some time that day to help set up (at 3:00 pm) or serve (starting a little before 5:00 pm)? Please let Pastor Stephen or Joyce Schlesselmann know if you are available to help with the event. Also, most importantly... **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** to come attend this great event. Thank you!

SALVATION ARMY KIDS MEALS

For the past few years, the Salvation Army of Benton County has been providing weekly kids meals to families with children to help supplement their food needs. Last year they provided over 41,000 meals to hundreds of families across our county during the summer months!! They expect that number to grow even bigger this year, and with the rising grocery costs they will need our help. If you would like to financially contribute to this effort, you can include that in your offering at church (designated for Kids Meals) or mail it directly to: Salvation Army, PO Box 1432, Warsaw, MO 65355 (be sure to mark your donation as "Kids Meals.")





SUMMER READING

Looking for a good book to read?? There are two recent releases with connections to St. Paul's.

Pastor Kim has recently released her second book, "Small Steps: Blessings to Lift Your Soul on the Pilgrimage of Life." This book is a collection of blessings, poetry, and micro essays that are meant to meet each of us in our daily lives, in all of the challenges and joys, struggles and triumphs.

<https://a.co/d/09pn6Mug>

Pastor Harlan Kaden also completed a new book, "Grace Reveals A Hidden God." Pastor Kaden served here at St. Paul's from 1991-2001. His book invites readers into an honest investigation of God's existence and humanity's place in the universe, seeking answers to the timeless question: Why am I here?

<https://www.pr.com/press-release/968976>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“God doesn’t love us because of our worth. We are of worth because God loves us.”

- Martin Luther





DETAILED TREASURER'S REPORT

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

	Actual Thru May 31	Annual Budget	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget	Target %
Benevolence Receipts					Note A
ELCA	2,210.00	7,400.00	-5,190.00	29.87%	
World Hunger	1,571.84	2,000.00	-428.16	78.59%	
Hope 5 One	3,321.00	2,500.00	821.00	132.84%	
Little Blessings	3,071.00	2,500.00			
CC Food Pantry Donations	1,016.46	1,500.00	-483.54	67.76%	
Seniors of North Benton County	100.00	-	100.00	100.0%	
Other	50.00	-	50.00	100.0%	
Total Benevolence Receipts	11,340.30	15,900.00	-4,559.70	71.32%	
Offering					
HP Offering	93,269.96	234,843.00	-141,573.04	39.72%	41.67%
Building Fund 5%	4,908.97	12,360.00	-7,451.03	39.72%	41.67%
Total Offering	98,178.93	247,203.00	-149,024.07	39.72%	
Building Use	1,250.00	2,750.00	-1,500.00	45.46%	
Gifts & Bequests	5,100.00	0.00	5,100.00	100.0%	
Fair Stand, net	-	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%	
Float	-	800.00	-800.00	0.0%	
Interest	1,995.76	-	1,995.76	100.0%	
Miscellaneous	631.00	-	631.00	100.0%	
Total Income	118,495.99	271,653.00	-153,157.01	43.62%	
Expenses	Note B				
Net Income	24,243.08	0.00	24,243.08		

Cash and Investment Balances - May 31, 2026

	Home Purpose	Building	Memorial	Crisis	Little Blessings	Seminary
	Note C		Note D		Note e	
Cash and Investment Balances	94,440.73	65,533.28	20,184.62	3,723.74	82,340.77	8,888.22

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TREASURER, CONTINUED

Note A: As of May 31, 2026, 41.67% of the year has elapsed. Offerings as a percent of budget are 39.72%% which indicates we are only about \$4,800 short of budgeted amounts. This is due to several large one-time offerings received during the first quarter.

Note B: Although expenses are less than income at May 31, we have not yet made any payment for property insurance this year.

Note C: Includes \$643.96 of Communities of Calling Funds.

Note D: Includes restricted amounts of \$15,000 for Little Blessings and \$1,512.75 for Sunday School.

Note E: Includes \$76,834.89 in grant funds.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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



◆ Send a note..... ◆

NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS

Kris Barnes
(friend of Julie Cronin)
Jon Beckman
Dan
(Friend of Dan & Julie Cronin)
Deanna Browning
Pam Bruns
(cousin of Ruth Ann Kreisel)
Joe Campbell
Scott Cash
Cliff Eckhoff
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)
Betty Harms
Ellen Harms
Kathy Harms
Pat Higgins
Ken Holland

Heidi Hopp
(grandmother of Nicole Rice)
Tanner Huffman
Gordon Ives
Greg Ives
Norene Ives
Joyce Jones
(sister of Connie Gerken)
Jim Kammeyer
Hazel Karstons
Jill Logan
Marvin Logan
(brother of Gale Logan)
Kyle Luetjen
David Mobely
(brother-in-law of Randy Healan)
Dennis & Claudia Moellman
Jackie Ross
(sister of Randy Healan)
Kylie Simon
Kevin Tatum
Nathan Vanderlinden
Judie VonHolten
Mike Wingerter
(brother of Susan Goosen)

Nursing Home

Vern Dean Bohling (Anew #4)
Shirley Cash (Anew #18)
Larry & Judy Schlesselman (GSCC #302)
Eugene Beckman (GSCC #309)
Arlene Schlesselman (GSCC #213)
Florence VonHolten (GSCC#207)
Earl Bauer (Windsor Nursing Home #47)





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

J. Phillips,

Navy Petty Officer E-4 MMN

(nephew of Katy Schlesselman)

Lt. Col. Ron Poe

1780 Cedar Lane

Sedalia, MO 65301

SSG Nick Smith

Whiteman Airforce Base

Major Joseph Strathman

1084 Strada Cristallo

Henderson, NV 89011



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



◆ A Time To Celebrate.....◆

SPECIAL OCCASIONS



07/02 Angela Alcorn
 07/03 Camille Johnson
 07/06 Jon Beckman
 07/06 Tristan Fox
 07/10 Kaelyn Keith
 07/10 Curtis Oelrichs
 07/11 Jason Viebrock
 07/13 Ila McIntyre
 07/14 Cash Bredehoeft
 07/14 Ainsley Cook
 07/14 Kyle Luetjen
 07/15 Mindy Fox
 07/16 Judy Schlesselman
 07/17 Gary Brandes
 07/18 Kathy Gerken
 07/18 Pam Luetjen
 07/19 Robert Farrington
 07/19 Ami Schlesselman
 07/19 Robert Tatum
 07/21 Matthew Luetjen
 07/21 John Oelrichs
 07/22 Jeff Balke
 07/22 Kristen Elliott
 07/24 Sam Cash
 07/25 Barbara Donnell
 07/26 Brianna Banks
 07/26 Trisha Goosen
 07/26 Susan Goosen
 07/27 Kale Kruep
 07/30 Jimmie Barnes
 07/31 Isaac Zeller

07/02 Kathy Oelrichs
 07/03 Joyce Wineinger
 07/05 Kathryn Schlesselman
 07/06 Braxton Balke
 07/09 Ellen Harms
 07/09 Kyler Tinney
 07/09 Macoy Tinney
 07/13 Ruth Kreisel
 07/13 Bill Viebrock
 07/14 Brian Ipsen
 07/14 Emily Kyle
 07/15 Eugene Beckman
 07/15 Kay Jobe
 07/16 Jill Logan
 07/16 Geraldine Pabst
 07/17 Kolby Kyle
 07/23 Todd Rusk
 07/24 Ben Goosen
 07/24 Janelle Strathman
 07/26 Bradyn Rehmer
 07/27 Delaney Betts
 07/27 Korbett Dieckman
 07/28 Cory Birch
 07/28 Tanita Theisen
 07/29 Justin Tinney
 07/30 Jon Beckman
 07/30 Marshall Harms
 07/30 Jocelyn Loughery
 07/30 Allen Oelrichs





SPECIAL OCCASIONS

07/07 Donnie & Amy Brown (19)
07/08 Kevin & Ami Schlesselman (31)
07/09 Tanna & Tanita Theisen (10)
07/15 Jacob & Ali Brockfeld (3)
07/16 Steve & Kim Oelrichs (44)
07/18 Ron & Carolyn Eickhoff (56)
07/19 Virgil & Diann Holsten (40)
07/23 Luke & Anne Goosen (21)
07/27 Zach & Reganne Thomas (2)
07/29 Eric & Emily Kullman (20)
07/30 Francis & Jennifer Rehmer (32)

Pastor:
Stephen Zeller
660-668-0881

Editor:
Lindsay Lee
660-668-3537

Church Office:
660-668-3537



◆ Susan Goosen, Church Council Secretary ◆

COUNCIL MINUTES

Congregational Council Meeting
Wednesday May 13, 2026

The Congregational Council of St. Paul's Lutheran Church met on Wednesday May 13, 2026. Those present were Chairman Jake Jackson, Pastor Stephen Zeller, Lynn Schear, Erin Oelrichs, Greg Bredehoeft, Roy Wagner, Melinda Strathman, Kelly Viebrock via Zoom, and Susan Goosen.

Call to Order: Chairman Jake Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:31.

Devotions: Pastor Stephen led the group in discussion on article XVI from the Augsburg Confession.

Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and revised. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Melinda and seconded by Lynn. Motion passed. Minutes filed.

Financial Report: Norma Schlesselman gave the financial report. Insurance will again be with the Church Mutual Insurance Company at a cost of \$33,800 a year, to be paid monthly. A motion to approve the report was made by Greg and

seconded by Melinda. All approved, report filed.

Pastor's report:

Upcoming events:

- Confirmation Service: May 24
- World Hunger Fish Fry: May 31
- Jackson Decker Baptism: June 14
- Ice Cream Social: June 28

Camryn Schear has requested her membership to be transferred to her new congregation.

Vacation Dates: May 26

Retirement Luncheon: It was wonderful celebration on Sunday, April 26 to honor the 65 years of Lois Viebrock playing the organ. Thanks to Kathy Oelrichs, Erin Oelrichs and Emily Kullman for all their work in coordinating, planning, and hosting the meal.

Baptism: On Sunday, May 3, Pastor presided at the baptism for Jordyn Wienberg (adult) here at St. Paul's.

Graduate recognition: On Sunday, May 3, we honored the graduating high school seniors: Lauren Brown, Jacob Daily, Garrett Elliott, Ethan Goosen, Shelby Nash, John Cramer and Madison Paxton. Thanks to One Stitch at a Time for gifting each graduate with a quilt.

Worship Attendance (in person):

Apr. 18: 9	Apr. 19: 113
Apr. 25: 17	Apr. 26: 125
May 2: 14	May 3: 121
May 9: 14	May 10: 130

(Continued on page 15)



◆ continued from page 14.....◆

COUNCIL CONTINUED

Committee Reports:

Congregational Ministry and Evangelism: No report at this time.

Worship: Services for the month of June were decided on.

Budget/ Stewardship: World Hunger Fish Fry will be held on May 31.

Parish Education: Sunday school will come to a close for the summer on 5/17. The Adult Bible Class will end for the summer on 5/24.

Property: Siding/ addition on storage building is still pending.

Elevette: Property committee will meet 5/14 with Allied to check a few more things before ordering new unit.

Window shades for the Fellowship hall: Looking into using remote controlled shades.

Highway Sign: Lane at Spooky Bear will do the two signs for the highway and the sign for the pool for a cost of \$1050.

File cabinet: A fire proof file cabinet is needed for the Cemetery records and other documents of the church. Council will coordinate with the Cemetery Committee to make a decision.

Trailer: We will be using a trailer to store the donations of clothing for the clothing drive.

Organ repair: The deposit has been made and the work will be done this summer.

New parking lot: The edge of the new parking lot will be cleaned up and grass seed spread.

Daycare: Roy has worked on the exhaust fan in the front bathroom for the final inspection on 5/26. He also cleaned the furnace filter of the unit by the entrance. Some tiles needed to be replaced and a leak in the front bathroom was addressed. Pastor has found an app that is suitable to use for the Daycare/ Preschool e-mails and direct payment. Cost for the app is \$49 a month.

Sanctuary wall repairs: There may still be some leaking. Cachero may have to do more repair before we move forward with the plaster repair.

Ice Cream Social will have a time change. The Social will be held on June 28, 11:00 to 1:00.

Bible camp: A motion was made for the council to pay half of the cost for the campers from St. Paul's. A motion to approve was made by Lynn and seconded by Erin. All approved, motion passed.

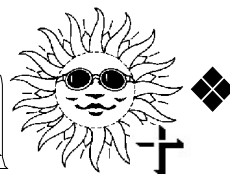
Adjournment: Greg made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Lynn. All approved, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Goosen
Church Council Secretary



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
ZIP + 4

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

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion at the Altar

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion by Stations

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion by Stations

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion by Stations

Come! Worship at St. Paul's

First, Second and Fourth 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 —