



"St. Paul's

"Epistles"

January 2021

Volume 37 No. 3



You have seen or heard the sayings going around at the end of 2020 that depict this past year as one we hope

we can forget about. Or if an unfortunate event happens it is chalked up to, "Well of course, that's 2020 for you."

I don't think the church should adopt this mindset. We have never let the world and its sayings or feelings set our agenda. We never seek to echo back to the world the things it says nor do we take our cues from where the world leads. We look to Christ. We look to what He says in His Word. We echo back only those things which He says to us. He speaks, we listen, then speak back what He has said. This is the language of faith.

We do this with our own children and grandchildren and provide the example. We take the time and speak carefully to them over and over and over again so they get it right - "Papa, Papa, Papa, Papa..." We don't do it once and hope they get it right. We repeat it until they echo it back and know it by heart. So goes the life of the church. God speaks to us over and over again that we would know by heart and echo back His words of truth and wisdom with the result that the church is *like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season (Psalm 1).*

A recent 2020 poll has shown that in the past year the only people who reported improvement in mental health from 2019 were those who reported weekly church attendance. This is not a coincidence. God echoes His promises of life and salvation in Christ to you over and over in church and feeds you with His life nourishing body and blood. This is of great

benefit. Not only eternally but also temporally. When we are grounded by these gifts, we can speak rightly and echo back to a world which hopes only to forget the past year, saying, *We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produce hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Romans 5:3-5).*

This is the language of faith. It speaks back what the Word of God says in the face of antagonism. It is a language that has to be learned so God calls us to hear it again and again. You have Christ and His Spirit. Rejoice. Whatever we experience is ultimately for our good and we can see by faith beyond the current circumstance. We await Jesus' return and depend on Him alone to be what He has promised to be for us – our Rock and Foundation.

2020 is not a year that should be forgotten. What has our Lord done this past year? Children were born into our families and He has baptized them. He has sustained our faith through His church during a time of uncertainty. He continues to have His Word preached and His sheep fed. We would not trade that for anything.

Don't buy into the world's desire to forget, but remember the Lord's faithfulness to you. Continue to come and hear it. He has spoken it over and over and we rejoice to echo back the words of faith – *Who is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord? (Romans 8:39)*

A blessed 2021 to you in Christ,

Pastor Suggitt



Sunday School Spring Project Ideas



There are a couple projects taking shape for this coming spring – Sunday School is hoping to put together a Church Picture

Directory.

We finished up 2020 decorating gift bags and cookies, making thank you cards, filling those bags, and then delivering them to many of the elderly members of our congregation. We've received many thank you notes.

Our Christmas program was a mixture of video recorded parts, Christmas hymns, and playing bells. Thank you to Amy Haag for putting everything together. There may have been a few tech issues, but everyone heard the Good News of Jesus Christ born a baby in a stable to be our Savior – the greatest gift of all! After the program, we had 52 people stay for a social distance pizza party.

Sunday school will be back in full swing on Sunday, January 3rd right after church. The kids stay in the sanctuary for the Bible story and lesson from Pastor, then the family comes to the fellowship hall for snacks, offering, activities, music, or Elmer. We've been getting done between 10:15 and 10:30 a.m. We hope you will join us.

I don't have a Sunday school outing planned for January, but I'm hoping to be able to plan something in February – we have to check to see what is open!

Let's pray for a prosperous and healthy 2021. With God nothing is impossible!

Susan Schember,
Sunday School Superintendent
586 246-4567 bssandsks@yahoo.com

Congregation members will be asked to schedule a day and time to come to the fellowship hall to be photographed. We will then collect your contact information: full names, mail address, email address, and phone numbers. The photos will be available to purchase in 5x7 or 8x10 sizes.

The directory will be organized, printed, and bound for each family to own one. We will not be using a professional photographer, but we will setup an area with a nice backdrop and print photos at a discounted rate.

If someone would like to donate a Thrivent Grant to use for this project, please let Susan Schember or Amy Haag know.

The other project will be a cool fundraiser to *Fundraising* benefit our seminary student.

We will be selling sets of the church's old dishes that we no longer use including plates, saucers, cups, and possibly glasses. The dishes will be sold in sets of 2 or 4.

Many of our congregation members will remember using them at Mother/Daughter Banquets, Lenten and Advent suppers, harvest dinners, etc.

All profits from this fundraiser will be donated to Christian Mundorf.

That's all for now!

Youth Group News

Youth group helped the Sunday School kids with filling and delivering the gift bags for 43 elderly households. We also purchased Christmas gifts for 3 needy families from Cass City, Bad Axe, and Lakers schools. The kids helped wrap the gifts. We also donated crafts, prizes, and candy for the families to use in their stockings at Christmas. The gift of giving is a wonderful blessing that we are hoping to be teaching our youth.



On January 16th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., the Youth Group is asked to come help sort and package soups and sandwich spreads for pickup at 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. that day; and then pickup Sunday, January 17th **immediately after service. The money raised from this sale will be used to pay for Higher Things Youth Conference.**

I am hopeful that we can plan an outing in the spring. Let's pray for the opportunity to get together as a group again very soon!

Susan Schember, Youth Group Leader
586 246-4567 bssandsks@yahoo.com

Soup Sandwich

Pickup

If you ordered soup or sandwich spreads, please plan to pick them up on Saturday, January 16th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. or immediately after church on Sunday, January 17th.



Thanks for helping us raise money for the Higher Things Youth Conference!



Want to listen to good theology concerning current topics, the Bible, and Christ crucified for you? Check out *Issues, Etc.* on your computer or smartphone.



The regular monthly meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, November 6, 2020 immediately following our worship service.

The meeting began with a devotion based on Matthew 2:11 – ‘A Gift Fit for a King’. Our prayer is for our Lord Jesus to grant us His grace that we might be willing to give the very best of ourselves in service to Him and to our neighbor.

Eight members answered roll call. The secretary read a thank you note from retired Pastor Richard Tino concerning the donation we made to his son, Evan’s college fund. He was very grateful.

Paula Holland asked to speak briefly to the group. She wanted to let us know that the family from USA that we supported for Christmas was truly grateful for our generosity.

Ruth Kumaus gave the treasurer’s report.

Old Business:

1. Discussion was held on what Christmas donations we would make. The following donations will be made:
 - a. Orphan Grain Train - \$500
 - b. Pastor Fritch in Alaska - \$500
 - c. Christian Mundorf, seminarian - \$500
 - d. Imagination Library - \$500

In addition:

Ruth Kumaus stated that the computer that Pastor Suggitt currently uses is getting old. He got it during his vicarage in California in 2014. Discussion was held. Wendy Tabar made a motion that the Ladies Aid purchase a new laptop computer for Pastor Suggitt – up to \$2,000; supported by Marge Weisenbach; carried. Pastor will research it and find the computer that will serve him best.

2. We talked about our latest fundraiser – Pre-order Christmas Goodies. It netted about \$1,000. We’ll take a break for a while and possibly have another fundraiser early in 2021.
3. Discussion was held on Christmas families from area schools. Ruth Fluegge noted that all of the donations were successfully completed.
4. We will discuss our cheeseball fundraiser again before Easter.

Peggy Parrish made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Wanda Dubs. Carried.

The meeting was closed by singing the Doxology and praying the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Salcido, Secretary



The Ladies Aid would like to thank everyone who made goodies, volunteered and purchased items from our pre-order, pickup Christmas Goodies fundraiser. We were blessed with good support and raised about \$1,000.



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Attention St. Paul Ladies Aid Members:

We do not normally hold a monthly meeting in January. However, the Ladies Aid Society & Congregational Activities Calendar still needs to be produced.

As you know the book lists events, committees, schedules, etc. for the coming year. On that note – how would you like to serve? Do you wish to remain on the same committee? Would you like to serve in another area instead or in addition to?

If you'd like to make any changes or additions please contact Sandy Salcido ASAP so she can make the necessary changes before the book is produced. No action is necessary if you're happy where you are.

Remember, we could use some new members for the Special Events Committee.

*** All ladies of St. Paul are invited and encouraged to attend. We will meet again in February if weather permits. Watch your bulletin for more information.

<p>Fern Dubs 2423 Smith Road Bay Port, MI 48720 (989) 453-2959</p>	<p>Don Fibranz Satchell's Christian Foster Care Home 2662 E. Caro Road Caro, MI 48723</p>
<p>Mabel Kain Country Gardens 203 N. Caseville Rd. Room 401 Pigeon, MI 48755 (989) 453-3374</p>	<p>Beverly Liedke 160 Country Bay Drive Room 308 Pigeon, MI 48755 (989) 453-3637</p>
<p>Barbara Main 7717 Berne Road Bay Port, MI 48720 (989) 553-3620</p>	<p>Bonnie Nowaczyk 7305 Main Street Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 553-4286 or (989) 678-4286</p>

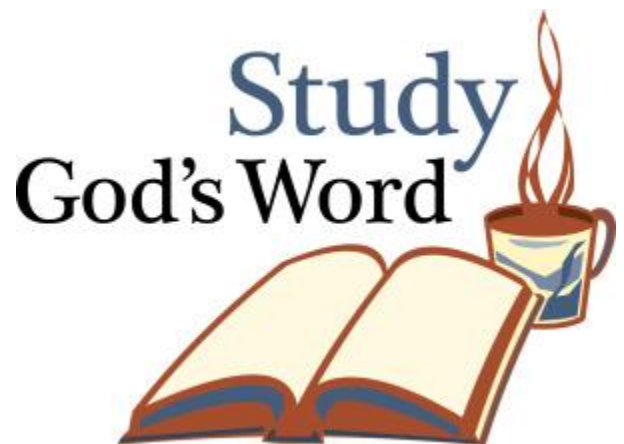
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Pastor Suggitt's Cell Phone: (989) 551-3976

Church Email: lvlpaul40@gmail.com
Secretary's Email: salcido.sandy8@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.



Come and grow in faith as we read and digest God's Word on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m.

Don't Miss the **DEADLINE!**

The deadline for the February issue of St. Paul's "Epistles" is **Sunday, January 24th**.

Email your article to salcido.sandy8@gmail.com or place in the newsletter mailbox.

Please help us keep the congregation informed as to what's going on in your organization. And don't forget those "Hats Off" items. Thanks!



We are saddened by the loss of our members Jim and Margaret Sauer, yet give thanks to God for all they were permitted to do and receive here at St. Paul as faithful members and confessors of the faith.

God's grace in Christ is sufficient for all our needs. It is in Him we have hope through every circumstance.

Please keep David and Timothy as well as family and friends in your prayers for peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in their hearts.



Crackers
Cereal
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Fruit Juices
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Ketchup
Mustard
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent
Dish Detergent
Shampoo
Conditioner
Tooth Paste
Canned Spaghetti-O's
Canned Ravioli, etc.
Tuna Fish
Boxed Mac & Cheese
Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Beans of all kinds
Ramen Noodles

LIFE QUOTES

"As the Church, we are created to stand against evil. We are created to speak truth ... and forgiveness. The truth is that abortion ends the life of a human being, and we should be unwavering in our opposition to it. But that is not the end of the story. We have been given the gift of Christ, and the power of Christ can wash our sins away."

Rev. Troy Tysdal, Church of the Lutheran Brethren

Right to Life of Michigan
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
www.lutheransforlife.org

IN HIS SERVICE

ELDERS

Jan. 3 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague
Jan. 6 @7:00 p.m. – Joe Salcido
Jan. 10 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
Jan. 17 – Warren Stoeckle & Ron Tabar
Jan. 24 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague
Jan. 31 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley

Tithe Counters

Jan. 10 – Jyl Shope & Kris Gilbert
Jan. 31 – Brandy Gunsell & Jen Timmons

January Altar Guild

Sandy Salcido
Peggy Parrish

January Altar Flowers

Peggy Parrish
Sandy Salcido

Snow Patrol

Jan. 3 – Fluegge
Jan. 6 (7:00 p.m. Epiphany Service) – Fluegge
Jan. 10 – **Volunteer Needed**
Jan. 17 – Timmons
Jan. 24 – Stoeckle
Jan. 31 – Fluegge



At the present time we are short one trustee. Therefore, we appreciate it if people would volunteer to be in charge of snow removal on the sidewalks and steps around the church occasionally. If you are willing to volunteer for this chore, please sign up on the Snow Removal calendar at the south entrance. Your help would be greatly appreciated.



January 1 – Elaine Renn
1 – Josh Sprague
3 – Terrance Dubs
4 – Titus Sprague
6 – Donald Fibranz
8 – Zachory Gilbert
10 – Barbara Adams
10 – Richard Metzger
13 – Maxwell Albrecht
13 – Robert Haag
14 – Lyle Osantoski
15 – Miranda Becker
17 – Ron Wissner
18 – Connor Becker
19 – Marge Weisenbach
20 – Jan Stoeckle
21 – Derrick Holland
22 – Eugene Kady
22 – Patti Reinhardt
23 – Judy Wright
23 – Austin Bruce
26 – Silver Sprague
26 – Meleah Timmons
28 – Linda Roe
31 – Aaron Gaeth
31 – Jim Roe
31 – Wayne Tabar

Happy Anniversary

18 – Chuck & Kim Dorland
25 – Richard & Char Metzger
26 – Robert & Amy Haag
30 – Richard & Lucille Welchner

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism	4 6:30 PM Bible Study @ SP	5 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council	6 7:00 PM Epiphany Service	7	8	9
10 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism	11 6:30 PM Bible Study @ SP	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism	18 6:30 PM Bible Study @ SP	19	20	21	22	23
24/31 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism	25	26	27	28	29	30

2021

In case of inclement weather, please tune in to WLEW 1340 AM to see if services are cancelled.

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Epiphany Service - Jan. 6 @ 7:00 p.m.