

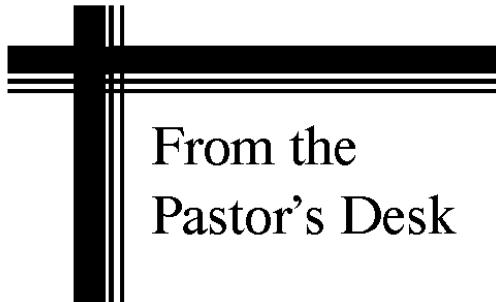


St. Paul's

"Epistles"

February 2021

Volume 37 No. 4



From the Pastor's Desk

If you haven't noticed in the stores yet, February churns up ideas of love. This, of course, is because of Valentine's Day and its annual preaching to men that they should do something nice for their sweetheart. I think it is a brilliant marketing technique to squeeze a man's conscience so that he is compelled to buy chocolate for his wife which she resolutely gave up just six weeks ago at the new year.

Yet, Valentine was a real man. He was a physician and a priest of the church in the third century. Valentine was executed during the rule of Emperor Claudius for his Christian faith and because of this he is called a martyr. A martyr is one who dies because of their confession of Christ which they will not abandon. Tradition suggests that on the day of his execution for his confession of Christ in AD 270, Valentine left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer written on an irregularly shaped piece of paper (perhaps a heart-shaped?). This greeting became a pattern for written expressions of love and caring.

I don't think that it is so much of the note of encouragement that intrigues me as it is pondering where Valentines' true love was found. And that was in Jesus. So much so that he let the executioner have his way with him rather than turn from the great confession of the truth of Christ. This is true of all martyrs. They've been brought to the truth of God's

revealed Word and stand unwaveringly not fearing those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul (see Matthew 10:28).

This still happens today. Christians being martyred for the faith. Christians risking everything to meet and hear the Word of the Lord and to receive His body and blood. We don't hear much about it because it's not popular headlines in certain circles, but it's happening. Like Valentine, so many are willing to put it all on the line for the love of God in Christ that it costs them their lives. Why don't they just bend? Why don't they just give in? I would say that they love the truth and in the truth of Christ, in His death and resurrection, they find real love.

I don't mean love as we think of it with the chocolate or pitter patter heart. I mean that God is love and how He reveals Himself to us. *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10).* Here is true love - The Father sending the Son to take the place of sinners. Jesus' love is solely focused on others, on you, and is never self-gratifying. We so often turn it around the other way and think about ourselves and cause great problems.

I believe, however, this is where the martyrs have it right. Shaped by the love and truth of Christ, they, in order to bestow this great Christian confession on others, would rather die bearing witness than save themselves. God be praised for their lives given on account of the faith that we would be strengthened and emboldened to speak the truth of God in all situations, for He has loved us first.

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Suggitt

Midweek Lent Services

*Return to the Lord your God
Joel 2:13*

Gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ during this holy season of Lent to hear the Word of God and pray. During Lent, we recognize the enormity of our sins and the call to repentance knowing the Lord is *gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

Ash Wednesday, 2/17
+ Divine Service +
with the imposition of ashes
St. Paul, Linkville - 5:30pm
Good Shepherd, Caseville - 7pm

Wednesday Evenings — *Evening Prayer 7pm*

2/24 @ St. Paul, Linkville

3/3 @ Good Shepherd, Caseville

3/10 @ St. Paul, Linkville

3/17 @ Good Shepherd, Caseville

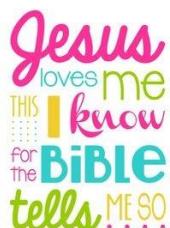
3/24 @ St. Paul, Linkville



SUNDAY SCHOOL – CHECK US OUT!

Great news! Sunday school attendance has started to improve with the new year. Families are enjoying Bible lessons with Pastor as well as music, activities, and puppet visits. Come check us out! If you know a family with children who are looking for a church to call home, please invite them to attend.

We will be playing bells on Sunday, January 31st and February 14th. The kids will play bells in their seats or they can move into the aisle to see Faye better. I will pass out bells before service. Parents are asked to keep the bells quiet when they aren't being played, and I will collect bells after service.



We are working on another wall display for the South entrance. This one will be all about God's love. With Valentine's Day coming, everyone is encouraged to write their favorite Bible verse on a conversation heart and add one to the wall. We will also be having a God Loves Me party on February 14th during Sunday School. The kids will be making ice cream sandwich heart cookies for snack that day!

Suggestion: Kids and families are encouraged to take home the paper handout that Pastor gives them each week during lesson. Please use the information to go over the lesson in more detail at home with your family. Kids learn by example and they tend to remember and understand better with repetition. It's great material to discuss during family mealtime. Try it!



I'm hoping to plan a bowling/pizza party and a roller skating party for Sunday School and Youth Group families in the near future. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.



Submitted by Susan Schember – SS Superintendent
586 246-4567 bssandsks@yahoo.com



We met on Saturday, January 16th to organize and pack soup and sandwich orders. Pastor Suggitt had a message for the kids about sanctity of life. There were 9 kids in attendance. We enjoyed soup, home-baked bread, and cookies for dinner. Then we played a couple games to end the evening.

Thanks to Thrivent, our Soup and Sandwich fundraiser raised about \$1,200 for the Higher Things Youth Conference. We sold almost all of the extras after church on Sunday, January 17th. We also donated a few quarts of soup and some sandwich spreads to: Fiddler's Green, Birch View, and Rockefeller AFC. If your junior high or high school student would like to attend Higher Things this coming summer, please let Pastor know ASAP so he can get you registered.

I'm planning a Youth Group family movie night. Please join us Saturday, February 20th 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for dinner and a movie in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to come enjoy taco and nacho bar, followed by popcorn and a movie. There will be a sign-up sheet, so I know how much food to prepare.



Watch for information regarding upcoming events: bowling/pizza party and roller-skating party.

Youth group is open to all students in 5th grade through college. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews to attend. Friends are also welcome to attend – spread the Good News!

Submitted by Susan Sember – YG Leader
586 246-4567 bssandsks@yahoo.com

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



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



We are planning to update our church directory – with a Photo Directory! Right now we have many people on our church directory who do not attend our church. If you know someone who no longer attends and/or has found a new church, please ask them to contact Sandy Salcido to update our records.

The new directory will include a photo, name, address, email, and phone numbers for all who choose to participate. We will be setting up a "studio" in one of the Sunday school rooms where we will setup a backdrop and take family photos of all members. At that time we will also collect contact information to ensure the records are up to date.

If you like your photo, and would like to purchase enlargements, we will be selling those as a fundraiser. All money collected will be donated to Positive Alternatives. We would benefit from a Thrivent Grant to help offset cost of printing and binding.

Look for information regarding photo shoot scheduling in March!



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



Orphan Grain Train of Sebewaing needs to restock the shelves with suitable used clothing. The center (126 E. Main Street) is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Clothing: *gently used or new*

- Infant, children's, women's and men's clothing
- Shoes – clean and wearable
- **New** underwear (**only**) – all ages and sizes (*Customs officials will levy fines if used underwear is sent in our shipments.*)
- Socks (*good used or new*)

St. Paul's "Epistles" is published monthly by St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7292 Kilmanagh Road, Pigeon, MI, 48755.

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Suggitt

Church & Office Phone: (989) 453-2271
Pastor Suggitt's Cell Phone: (989) 551-3976

Church Email: lvpaul40@gmail.com
Secretary's Email: salcido.sandy8@gmail.com

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

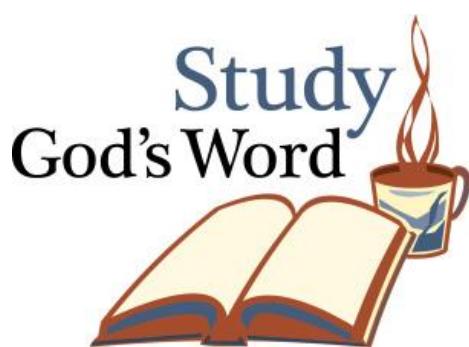


Spring cleaning will be upon us soon. When you clean your closets please keep OGT in mind. You can bring clothing to the warehouse in **plastic bags** or place in the tub under the coat rack at the church.



Any of these items are welcome for the Food Pantry at any time.

- 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



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



For those who are still uncomfortable in a public setting, you may set up a private appointment with Pastor Suggitt to receive the Lord's body and blood. The medicine of the very flesh and blood of the crucified and risen Christ is the medicine of immortality.

Newsletter

Articles for the March issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" are due Sunday, February 21st.

Please place your articles in the "Epistles" mailbox at the church or email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com.

Don't forget those "Hats Off" items!



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. If you have any questions, contact Rich Fluegge. Your help would be greatly appreciated.





Hats Off to the Youth Group and their leader Susie Salcido for the great idea for gift bags for the elderly. It made my day!

Sue Errer

**** Lots of the 'elderly' members have mentioned how tickled they were to receive their gift bags. The coffee cups brought back lots of wonderful memories of dinners, banquets, etc. of days gone by at which those dishes were used.

Issues, Etc.
Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio
www.issuesetc.org

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 Quarterly Voter's Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church will be held immediately after our service on Sunday, February 21, 2021.

Please plan to attend so the business of St. Paul can be properly conducted.

LIFE QUOTES

On the March for Life: "We've show up to celebrate and safeguard each one from the unborn to the elderly and everywhere in between...We're leaning in to bring joy to the desperate and hope to the endangered. We're reaching out to take community and opportunity even amid adversity. We're marching forth to give courage and compassion. We're united today not simply to leave a sordid past behind but to leap ahead into a splendid future."

Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life – lutheransforlife.org





3rd - Les Schaper
3rd - Russell Wise
4th - Lisa Halleck
4th - Lilly-Anne Provost
7th - Scott Wright
8th - Ava Dubs
9th - Harold Weisenbach
10th - Karen Britt
11th - Kennedy Bismack
12th - Charlotte Metzger
12th - David Ondrajka
12th - Racheal Parrish
12th - Lila Stein
13th - Chad Timmons
16th - Bradley Barnum
17th - Tiffany Shepard
20th - Lola Stein
21st - James O'Hare
22nd - Dena Harris
23rd - Fern Dubs
23rd - Nicholas O'Hare
23rd - Owen Reibling



3rd - Jim & Sue Albrecht
4th - Herschel & Barb Adams
18th - Matt & Kari Ricker
19th - Steve & Michelle Gayari

IN HIS SERVICE

ELDERS

Feb. 7 – Warren Stoeckle & Ron Tabar
Feb. 14 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague
Feb. 17 (Ash Wednesday) 5:30 p.m.
Joe Salcido & Josh Sprague
Feb. 21 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
Feb. 24 (7:00 p.m.) – Ron Tabar
Feb. 28 – Warren Stoeckle & Ron Tabar

TITHE COUNTERS

Feb. 14 – Kari Ricker & Ruth Fluegge
Feb. 28 – Patti Reinhardt & Kim Krohn

FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

Margaret Timmons
Sandy Salcido

FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

Joyce Metzger: 678-4330
Jyl Shope: 550-2874

FEBRUARY SNOW PATROL

Feb. 7 – Schember
Feb. 14 – Timmons
Feb. 17 (5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday) Volunteer
Feb. 21 – Stoeckle
Feb. 24 (7:00 p.m.) – Fluegge
Feb. 28 – Haag

LutheranPublicRadio.org



February

February is Mite Box Collection Month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 PM Bible Study	2 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	3	4	5	6
7 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School Ladies Aid Meeting 1:30 AM Catechism	8 6:30 PM Bible Study	9	10	11	12	13
14 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 AM Catechism	15 6:30 PM Bible Study	16	17 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> <u>Divine Service</u> 5:30 PM @ St. Paul 7:00 PM @ Good Shepherd	18	19	20
21 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School Voter's Mtg. 1:30 AM Catechism Newsletter Articles Due	22 6:30 PM Bible Study	23	24 7:00 PM Lent Midweek Service @ St. Paul	25	26	27
28 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism	2021					

St. Paul's "Epistles"



*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755*



Divine Service

February 17, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.