

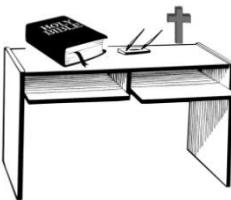


St. Paul's

"Epistles"

March 2021

Volume 37 No. 5



From the Pastor's Desk

Lent is a penitential season, which means it is season of repentance. We began with Ash Wednesday and in a real way reminded and marked ourselves as ones, who because of our sin, will return to dust. This isn't to flippantly say, "Yeah, we are all sinners therefore we die because the wages of sin is death." It is to realize that *my* sin has drastic consequences,

that I shouldn't take them so lightly, and that I should return to the Lord in repentance and faith.

The Scriptures say much about repentance. It is at the heart of John the Baptist's proclamation, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2), and Jesus preaches the same sermon, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). So it is a big deal, yet I think we have to unpack what repentance truly is to recognize the theme of the Lenten season.

Our Lutheran Confessions help explain it in a simple, concise way. *"Now, repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors."* (Augsburg Confession XII 2-5)

Lent aids to orientate us to recognize our sinfulness - which comes from the preaching of the Law - to bring about contrition, terror and sorrow, over our sinfulness in transgressing God's Law. Thus, true repentance doesn't say "Yeah, we are all sinners," but rather humbly confesses "*I myself* have sinned against God," and is stricken with that reality. Adam and Eve provide the example of what this looks like. After eating the fruit that was forbidden by God, they saw their nakedness and were ashamed. They covered themselves with fig leaves and hid from God (Gen. 3:7,8). This is a picture of terror: hiding from God and His voice.

But thankfully, Lent doesn't offer only that. Notice the second part of repentance as explained in the Confessions: *faith born of the Gospel*. This Gospel is Jesus crucified for terrified, sorrowful sinners that all their hope would be in Him. So in Lent we also continue to hear of our Lord's great sacrifice for us, His love and promises, just as Adam and Eve did after their fall. The Lord found them in the garden and spoke the Gospel to them (Gen. 3:15) and they mix that promise with faith and trust. Lent leads us to Good Friday and Easter yet all the while continues proclaiming the forgiveness found in Jesus crucified and raised from the dead.

This Lent, may the Lord grant us true repentance, that we may hear the preaching of the Law and sorrow over our sin, but all the more may we hear and believe the beautiful word of the Gospel, and believing it, have life and salvation in the name and gifts of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In 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.*

Wednesday Evenings – *Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.*

3/3 @ Good Shepherd, Caseville

3/10 @ St. Paul, Linkville

3/17 @ Good Shepherd, Caseville

3/24 @ St. Paul, Linkville

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

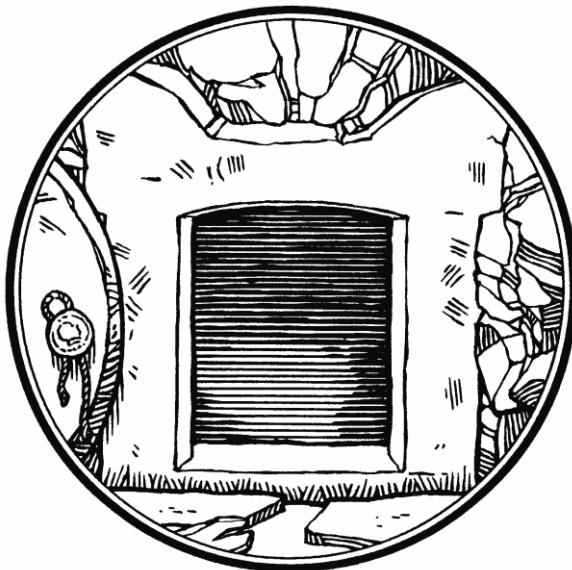
Holy Week Services

Holy (Maundy) Thursday
April 1
Good Shepherd, Caseville 5:30pm
St. Paul, Linkville - 7:00pm



Good Friday
April 2, 2021
Good Shepherd, Caseville - 1:00pm
St. Paul, Linkville - 7:00pm

The Resurrection of Our Lord



Easter Vigil April 3
Grace Lutheran Church, Fairgrove
7:00pm

Easter Sunrise April 4
St. Paul, Linkville - 6:30am

Easter Festival Service April 4
St. Paul, Linkville - 8:30am
Good Shepherd, Caseville - 10:30am



Women OF THE Church

The regular meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge immediately following our worship service on Sunday, February 7, 2021. Eleven ladies answered roll call.

The meeting began with a devotion based on Matthew 2:1 - 2: *God's Gift of Creation*. 'When we are intentional in our stewardship of all God has given for the sake of the kingdom of God, we are pointing those around us to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Himself.' How do WE manage the simple gifts our Lord has given us?

Our treasurer Ruth Kumaus reported that about \$17,900 remains in the checking account for 2020. There are several outstanding checks at year's end.

Old Business:

1. Discussion was held to decide if we will hold the cheeseball fundraiser prior to Easter. A motion was made by Margaret Timmons and supported by Joyce Metzger to do a scaled-down version of this fundraiser since McDonald's Foodland is now closed and they sold a good number of them for us; Carried March 27th was chosen for the production date.
2. Sandy will get pricing for the necessary goods needed and place the order. She will also post a job list for people to sign up to help that day.

New Business:

1. Sandy asked for volunteers to serve on the Altar Guild at St. Paul. We would like to have 12 teams of 2 people to serve, one month per year. The veteran members of the guild will help train the new members. Several ladies volunteered. We will continue to search out more new members.
2. Ruth Fluegge asked if she should order the Easter lilies for the altar from the florist is Cass City who supplied the poinsettias for Christmas. Joyce Metzger stated that she

had already inquired about Easter lilies at Jackie's in Sebewaing. Ashley, the florist there said she could get them for us. Joyce volunteered to get the lilies.

A motion was made by Joyce Metzger and supported by Margaret Timmons to adjourn the meeting; carried. The meeting concluded by singing the doxology and praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Sandy Salcido, Secretary



THRIVENT ONLINE GIVING

The Ladies Aid will be selling cheeseballs to raise money to help defray medical costs for one of our church families (The Ken & Tiffany Shepard family). (Check the enclosed article to find out more about this church family.) Order forms are available at either end of the church. Why not order your cheese ball (plain or with horseradish) today?

Thrivent Grants are helping with this fundraising effort so thank you to the Thrivent members who volunteered their grant dollars.

Thrivent is also now offering an Online Giving Platform where you can donate directly to this cause. The Thrivent link is:

<https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=0ddf574b-be47-4dc0-9bc0-0336cad1fe18&custom-templates=>. This link can also be uploaded to your Facebook and other social media sites to share with family and friends. **100% of the money raised on the Thrivent page will go to Ken for his medical expenses.**

You can also make a cash donation *without ordering a cheese ball* by going to our church website – **stpaullinkville.org**, click **"ONLINE GIVING,"** then select **"Ken Shepard Fund"** in the dropdown menu.



Kenny & Tiffany Shepard

Tiffany is daughter of Dean & Julie Kreh. She has been a member of St. Paul since she was confirmed in the church. Tiffany enjoyed singing with her Mom and the members of St. Paul's church choir before leaving for college.

Tiffany and Kenny were married at St. Paul on April 23, 2016. They recently moved back to the Owendale area to be closer to family. They have two children Jaxson, two and Charlotte, one. Both were baptized at St. Paul, with Charlotte being baptized at Kreh's dining room table as the pandemic was shutting down public places.

The move home was stressful as they lived with Tiffany's parents for 18 months, while finding a place to live. They just moved into their home – a home which was moved on the family farm in June of last year. It took all summer to complete the job, but in October, it was moving day.

October was also a month for a job for Tiffany, as she was unemployed most of the 18 months she was back home. In November she accepted a new position with DTE Energy as a wind turbine technician based out of Bad Axe. This is what she went to trade school to do. She now, locally climbs and repairs the wind turbines.

January 3, 2021, Kenny woke up experiencing blurred double vision. He went to the ER in Pigeon and was transferred to McLaren in Bay City. They were thinking he had a stroke, but later, after many tests and 5 days in the hospital, was diagnosed with MS. This has resulted in many hospital outpatient steroid drips, followed up by steroid packs. He has been unable to drive, work, or help in the house or with the kids.

Two weeks ago, he had nasal surgery to remove a large polyp that was discovered during his hospital stay. This will help his breathing. He is on a waiting list for a sleep test.

He had an initial consultation with a neurologist. She was extremely helpful at explaining MS. She informed Kenny that stress and heat can trigger flare-ups. The goal is to remain flare up free, because after each flare up a person can lose mobility or functionality permanently. The doctor has applied to receive approval from the insurance company for specialty MS drugs. We await the answer.

At Kenny's next appointment the doctor will have a better idea of the type and stage of Kenny's MS after reviewing all his tests and MRI. The doctor did tell Kenny this will be a lifelong disease. With all that being said, Kenny's current job will need to change so that it does not cause flare ups.

Thank you for all your continued prayers for Kenny and his family. Kenny has had his vision restored now and it appears to be back fully. The doctor said this is good news as it appears that he responded well to the steroid treatment.

Giving back for the greater good

Amplify your impact to live generously. Thrivent's unique generosity programs and membership benefits enable you to make the most of all you've been given.



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

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: lvspaul40@gmail.com
Secretary's Email: salcido.sandy8@gmail.com

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

Church Directory



We are hoping to print a new church directory this year. We'd like to include a picture of each member along with their name(s) address, phone number and email. A Thrivent Grant will help offset the cost of printing and binding the directory.

A photo studio will be set up in the Sunday School rooms. Families and individuals are asked to sign up for a photo shoot date and time after Easter. We will take the photos and offer enlargements as a fundraiser. The money raised will be donated to our adopted seminarian, Christian Mundorf.

There is a sign-up sheet in the South Entrance on the bulletin board. Please choose a date and time to have your picture taken! We also appreciate any help spreading the word to family and friends, so we can update the directory to reflect ALL St Paul members.

Right now we have many people on our church membership 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 (salcido.sandy8@gmail.com 989 444-9751) to update our records.



LutheranPublicRadio.org



EASTER UPDATE!

The Church Council has voted to have Easter Breakfast this year! Youth group will be providing breakfast to everyone between Sunrise and Festival Services on April 4th. We will start serving at 7:15 a.m. and end at 8:15 a.m. to give the youth time to get changed into church clothes before Festival Service. Youth group kids will be asked to arrive at 6:30 a.m. wearing Thrivent shirts (we may meet on Saturday evening to prep also). Council members are asked to help with cleanup after church service.

There will be a signup sheet posted so that we have a better idea of how many people to prepare for.

CHURCH FAMILY ROLLERSKATING PARTY

Please join us for a family skate party at Caseville Roller Rink on Saturday, March 20th at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All church members are invited to attend! It's **FREE!** Come get some exercise and spend some quality time with your church family.

We will provide lunch at 12:30 p.m. for those who would like to eat before you leave. ***MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED***



There is a signup sheet in the North narthex. Please let me know who's coming by March 14th, so I can plan enough food and drink. SO EXCITING!

Susan Schember



We had a great turnout for Family Movie Night on February 20th – 6 youth group kids, 7 younger kids, and 16 adults enjoyed tacos, nachos, ice cream, popcorn and a movie.

The Youth group watched *God's Not Dead* in the fellowship hall, while the younger kids watched Veggie Tales and played games in the conference room. I'm hopeful to get more youth group kids participating in our next event (5th grade through college age are invited). Youth group families are encouraged to sign up for the Roller Skating Party on March 20th. Bring your friends!

We will be preparing Easter breakfast for the congregation on April 4th. Youth are asked to arrive at 6:30 a.m. wearing Thrivent shirts. You can bring your church clothes to change into before service. We will be collecting a free-will offering. The money raised at Easter breakfast will be used for a Church Family Bowling and Pizza Party later in the spring.

I haven't heard anything yet, but I am hoping to participate in the Comcast Cares Day this spring. I'm sure it all depends on COVID safety protocols. I'll let you know if I get any info.

Susan Schember (Youth Group Director)
586 246-4567 bssandsks@yahoo.com



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON MARCH 14TH

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.



The 2021 flower calendar has been posted in the church office.

FYI – Due to the solemn nature of the Lenten season flowers are withheld at that time.

Flowers may be placed on the altar for lots of reasons, or for no reason at all. If you would like to furnish flowers for the altar for a specific date just sign your name on the line next to the date.

You can order and pick up the flowers yourself or contact the people on the flower committee to do it for you. The names of the ladies on the Flower Committee are posted in the bulletin and/or newsletter. Give them a call and they'll be happy to take care of it for you.

NewsLetter DEADLine

Articles for the April issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" are due Sunday, March 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!

LIFE QUOTES

"We affirm again and again that God handmade all people and Jesus died for all people. And that means ALL lives are valuable and equally loved."

Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life for Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Lent



In His Service

ELDERS

March 7 – Ken Haley & Joe Salcido
March 10 – (7:00 p.m.) Warren Stoeckle
March 14 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague
March 21 – Warren Stoeckle & Ron Tabar
March 24 – (7:00 p.m.) Ken Haley
March 28 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley

TITHE COUNTERS

March 14 – Jylan Shope & Kris Gilbert
March 28 – Brandy Gunsell & Jen Timmons

MARCH ALTAR GUILD

Diane Dubs & Annette Prich

MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

Diane Dubs & Kim Dorland

SNOW PATROL

March 7 – Timmons
March 10 – Stoeckle (7:00 p.m.)
March 14 - Fluegge
March 21 - **Volunteer**
March 24 – Timmons (7:00 p.m.)
March 28 – Stoeckle

Issues, Etc.



Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

www.issuesetc.org



March 1st – Kayla Deering

Alexander Rogers

2nd – Richard Dubs

Kendyl Reehl

3rd – Doug Fritz

Lonnie Fritz

Shana Adkins

4th – Lance Deming

Scott Thies

5th – Devin Prich

Kolten Holliday

7th – Taylor Engelhardt

8th – Abby Truemner

9th – Richard Renn, Jr.

10th – Ellery Fritz

Linda Schweitzer

14th – Laura Swartzendruber

15th – Kristi Howard

16th – Rowan Higgins

17th – Blake & Brody Verbeek

18th – Henry Gies

Terry Gettel

19th – Bonnie Nowaczyk

Kenneth Rathje

Henry Haag

20th – Braedon Perzanowski

Blain Renn

Amy Haag

22nd – Ken Haley

26th – Lucille Welchner

Stacey Farmer

27th – Harper Shuboy

Ron Tabar

Valerie Fritz

28th – Adam Metzger

Heidi Perkins

Kelly Haley

29th – Lisa Sprague



March 7 – Van & Suzanne Fritz

March 27 – Harold & Marge Weisenbach

Larry & Annette Prich

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.

FORGIVEN



IF YOU FORGIVE ANYONE HIS SINS, THEY ARE FORGIVEN.
(JOHN 20:23)

This **Higher Things Conference** is coming to Michigan again this summer!

Our plans for last year came to an end with the cancellation due to Covid.

But take heart, we can plan for summer 2021. The conference will take place July 20-23 at Calvin University, Grand Rapids and geared is toward students in 6th - 12th grade. Early Bird registration begins Nov. 1. For more information see Pastor Suggitt or go to higherthings.org.

Update

Early Bird registration has been extended through March. There is still time to sign up!

LENT

Where Did The Alleluia Go?

There is one word that we often use in the Divine Service that isn't used during Lent. It is usually used after responsories, antiphons, before the reading of the Holy Gospel, and other places. If you have not noticed yet, it is the word *alleluia*. We stop singing and saying *alleluia* during Lent and won't speak it again until Easter morning.

During Lent, we fast from using the *alleluia* (which is Hebrew for "Praise the Lord") as we focus in on the suffering and death of Jesus. This joyful word makes its entry again when we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord when the first words you hear will be:

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

St. Paul Mother-Daughter Brunch & Bridal Show

Saturday, May 8 – 11:00 a.m.

ATTENTION ALL MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS, AUNTS, NIECES, GRANDMOTHERS, GRANDDAUGHTERS, & FEMALE FRIENDS!

St. Paul Mother-Daughter Brunch and Bridal Show will be Saturday, May 8th at 11:00 a.m.

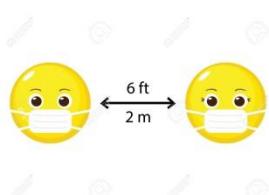
All girls and women are invited to come enjoy a delicious brunch with coffee/tea/hot chocolate bar, followed by a fashion show!



We are looking for wedding gowns from St. Paul members and from those who were married in our church. Brides, mother-of-the-bride, bridesmaids, and flower girl dresses are needed. If you are willing to have your dress or dresses in the show, please bring them to the church by Sunday, April 21st. If you'd like to model your dress, please let me know. If you want to show your dress but not model it, we will find someone to model it for you! And, if any dresses are too delicate to be worn, we would still love to display them. It would also be fun to display our members wedding photos or albums. A special table will be set up, if you are willing to display yours that day.

This event will be free to attend, but we will be collecting DIAPERS, WIPES, ONESIES, AND BABY FOOD for Positive Alternatives in Bad Axe. Please bring your donations that day!

We will also be distributing baby bottles for the Baby Bottle Campaign on that date. Bottles are to be filled with loose change and returned to church on Father's Day. All bottles will be donated back to Positive Alternatives. And finally, bring your wallet, because we will be selling raffle tickets to raffle off the plants/flowers that will be used as centerpieces at the event. All proceeds will go directly to Positive Alternatives.



For your information: Families will be seated at their own tables to allow for proper social distancing. The fashion show will happen in the fellowship hall, so we won't need to move in a large group into the sanctuary. For anyone who may not feel comfortable attending, we will be videotaping the fashion show to put on our church website for your viewing enjoyment.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted in April, so we can plan enough food for the group and a proper seating arrangement. Hope to see all the ladies there!

Submitted by: Susan Schember
586 246-4567 bssandsks@yahoo.com



Sunday School celebrated Valentine's Day with a *Jesus Loves Me Party*. After Pastor's lesson, the kids made ice cream sandwiches and played a fun game with candy hearts. We put up another wall decoration in the South narthex – God's Conversation Hearts. Everyone was asked to choose a Bible verse talking about God's love and write it on a heart. The purpose of the display is for us to be reminded of God's unconditional love and mercy toward us and to encourage families to talk about that love in their homes. If you would like to add a verse to the wall, we have extra hearts! Let's be mindful to read our Bibles and talk about God in our daily lives.

We are now into the Lenten season. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we should examine ourselves daily and repent of our sins. Some people "give up" something during Lent as a sign of sacrifice and to test their self-discipline. This is to represent Jesus Christ's sacrifice when he went into the desert to pray and fast for 40 days and then later die on the cross for our sins. The Sunday school students were given a Lenten cross to complete during the 40 days of Lent. Families are asked to help their children complete an activity each day and then color in that part of the cross. I will be willing to laminate the crosses after Easter for those who complete them! The crosses can be displayed at church or taken home to adorn your walls.

The students are practicing *I am Jesus Little Lamb*, in case we are able to sing as a group on Easter Sunday. Pastor has purchased board books for each family with illustrations and the words to the hymn for families to practice at home. Please help us teach the kids this wonderful song.

I am planning an online daily Sunday School event from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. We will be reading through *The Easter Story Egg*, covering every day of Holy Week. There will be a link on the church website each day. Families are encouraged to watch with their children each day.

Dates to know:

- March 14th (Daylight Savings Time Starts) Music during class – last day to sign up for roller skating
- March 20th Family Roller Skating Party (sign up by March 14th)
- March 21st Playing bells in church (please bring your children so we have enough to play)
- March 28th Palm Sunday Music and Elmer during class.
- April 1st Maundy Thursday
- April 2nd Good Friday
- April 4th Easter! Breakfast 7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Hoping to sing in service! Possible Egg Hunt after service*

*I want to know if any families are interested in an Easter Egg Hunt immediately after service on Easter Sunday? Let me know ASAP.

March

		2	3	4	5	6
		6:15 PM Elders Mtg. 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service @ GS			
7 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School Ladies Aid Mtg. 1:30 PM Catechism	8 6:30 PM Bible Study	9	10 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service @ SP	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism	15 6:30 PM Bible Study	16	17 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service @ GS	18	29	20 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Family Roller Skating Caseville
21 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Coffee Hour 1:30 PM Catechism	22 6:30 PM Bible Study	23	24 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service @ SP	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 8:30 AM Service 9:30AM Sunday School & Coffee Hour No Catechism	29 No Bible Study	30	31			

2021

St. Paul's "Epistles"



*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755

