



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

December 2021

Volume 38 No. 2

Hallmark Christmas movies are nice but predictable. A girl goes back to her hometown after being away for years and meets the man who seems to be the local handyman but in reality is the town's wealthiest resident. They have witty banter until she is finally swept away by his charm, rugged good looks, and never ending wardrobe of Land's End or Eddie Bauer apparel. It snows peacefully and lightly as the new couple engages in a kiss while the camera gently pans out from the town square giving sight to a few people milling around not dressed properly for the end of December in the mountains.

That's nice. And mostly wholesome.

Yet it is a Christmas without Christ. And no Mass. No Jesus and no church. Sure, there might be a passing glimpse of a nativity scene or some hubbub about happenings at a Christmas pageant of sorts, but these things are peripheral if not all together absent. The point here is not to deter you from Hallmark movies (obviously I've seen them), but is to bring our attention to the unpredictability of how God has chosen to come to us and how that should be paramount and drive our lives as ones rescued by Him.

Advent teaches us that we have not been ruggedly handsome nor have we been dressed in the best attire. We haven't been charming or wholesome or secretly the best person in town. The twist in the plot – that which is so startling – is that which we hear on Christmas. That Jesus comes for us anyway. *Unto you is born this day a Savior, Christ the Lord.* This is Christmas. God among men, as a man. To save sinful men. By dying.



This fact makes Jesus the center of any true Christmas. For what joy can compare to Christ who puts on our likeness to redeem us? What town square festivities can hold a candle to gathering around the flesh and blood that once lay in a manger but now comes in His church *for you*? God be praised when you see a nativity set up and remember "That's for me! And I have a Savior who still comes to bless me with His benefits." Jesus born is true beauty revealed. It is the unexpected gift for poor sinners. It is hope and the love of God mingled together with the camera not panning out but zooming in on where you should be focused. Let everything else be peripheral to that. Put up scenes of our Lord's birth and Him on a cross in your house. Hear the angels say "For you" as they rejoice with good tidings of great joy.

Unpredictable mercy and grace through the God-Man born to die. For you. Keeping Christ in Christmas brings you that. And keeping Mass in Christmas delivers to you the gathering in His church where all His benefits are poured out.

*Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
(LSB 332)*

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Suggitt

It's LUTHERAN WITNESS time!



It's time to re-subscribe or subscribe to THE LUTHERAN WITNESS at a discounted rate. The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year.

It provides Missouri Synod laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective.

Subscriptions ordered through your church will include the Michigan In Touch supplement. The new subscription year doesn't begin until March 2021.

Payment for subscriptions should be made directly to your St. Paul Lutheran Church. Please place your payment in an envelope including your name and mailing address, and deposit in the basket on the desk in the office by DECEMBER 5th to take advantage of a discounted District rate of \$11.60/year.

LIFE QUOTES

The world needs your voice to declare Jesus' words of eternal life. The world needs your voice to declare God's value of life in all of its stages. The world needs your voice to declare God's convictions born of His Word. The world needs your voice to declare that God's word of forgiveness purchased with the blood of Jesus extends to all of us sinners, including those who have chosen abortion. The world needs your voice!

*A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
lutheransforlife.org*

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

Gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ for the Word of God and prayer on Wednesday evenings during this season of Advent.



**Christian Hope:
Now; At the Last; Unto Eternity**

December 1 @ St. Paul, Linkville

*6:00 p.m. Supper
7:00 p.m. Vespers*

December 8 @ Good Shepherd, Caseville

7:00 p.m. Vespers

December 15 @ St. Paul, Linkville

*6:00 p.m. Supper
7:00 p.m. Vespers*



Women OF THE Church

The regular meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by Vice-President Janet Truemner immediately following our worship service on Sunday, November 7, 2021.

Pastor Suggitt opened the meeting with a devotion based on a reading from Philippians – we need be generous and re-find the joy in helping others

Eight members answered roll call. The secretary's report from the special meeting held on September 19, 2020 was read. Ruth Kumaus gave the treasurer's report. Her statement at the end of October showed a balance of \$29,600. in the checking account; savings account – \$11,685; petty cash – \$117.41.

Old Business:

1. Ruth K. presented a breakdown of totals by department for the bazaar. Profits from our bazaar totaled \$16,455.
2. Discussion was held on how we should use the remaining canned goods – possibly gift baskets for sale or shut-ins during the Christmas season.

New Business:

1. Ruth Kumaus made four proposals concerning our finances. Each proposal was discussed, motions made and supported on each, and carried. They are as follows:
 - A. The Ladies Aid is to issue a check to Sunday School in the amount of \$1,000 (\$700 for the Sunday School Cookie Walk estimated earnings and \$300 as a donation).

- B. Transfer \$2,000 from the Ladies Aid Checking Account into the Ladies Aid Savings Account.
- C. Change the frequency of the Seminary Student's support from quarterly to semi-annually (two payments issued – one in January and one in August). The student will be informed of this change.
- D. Increase the Seminary Student's support from \$800 to \$1000.

2. Our treasurer gave us a breakdown on our finances for the coming year. Discussion was held on what our charitable donations would be for 2021. Several suggestions were made. In the end we agreed that we should make the following charitable donations:

Blessing Boxes - \$500
Safe Place - \$500
Orphan Grain Train - \$500
Good Samaritan, Bay City - \$500
Seminarian - \$500
Alaska Ministry - \$500
Clothe-A-Child - \$250
Family Christmas/Bad Axe - \$500
Family Christmas/Cass City - \$500
Family Christmas/Laker Schools - \$500
Family Christmas/Owen-Gage Schools - \$500
Family Christmas/USA Schools - \$500

3. St. Paul has secured a grant that is intended to use to purchase 2 new computers – one for the church office and one for the Financial Secretary to record tithes. An updated version of the Shepherd's Staff will also be purchased. The Ladies Aid agreed to help financially if needed to make these purchases.

The meeting closed with singing the doxology as saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Sandy Salcido, Secretary



The kids and parents had a great time for a scavenger hunt and bonfire on November 21st. The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed s'mores and hotdogs cooked on the fire! Thanks to Anyssa Mandich for putting together the fun-filled scavenger hunt.

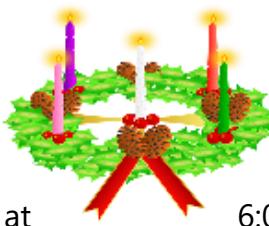
Classes will be shorter for the month of December, but we will still continue to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are busy

practicing for our Christmas program. The kids will be telling *The Christmas Story* on Sunday, December 19th at 4:00 p.m. Each Sunday School family is



asked to bring 2 dozen cookies for the party afterward. Everyone is invited to come for the program, and then stay for pizza and cookies in the fellowship hall afterward. Please help your children to learn their memory parts and the songs – sing at home, in the car, whenever you can!

We are also singing two songs with the adult choir on Sunday, December 19th during the 8:30 a.m. service. And, we are playing bells during church on Sunday, December 5th. Please have your kids in church and Sunday school every week.



Sunday School and Youth Group are providing Advent Supper on Wednesday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for dinner before service. Dinner will be: homemade soups, fresh baked bread, veggies and dip, and lots of great desserts. We will be taking a free-will offering that will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for our Adopt-a-Family program. Kids and teachers will be asked to help with setup, serving, and cleanup, plus bringing desserts.

Coffee Hour Snack Schedule: (please bring 3 dozen each)

12/5 – Swartz and Ondrajka

12/12 – Kumaus and Romzek

12/19 – Schember and Errer

12/26- No class

1/2/22- No class

1/9/22 - Reibling/Haag

Enjoy Christmas with your families. Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Susan Schember

Sunday School Superintendent

586 246-4567

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

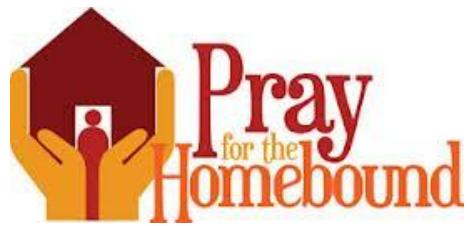
Pastor Suggitt's Cell Phone: (989) 551-3976

Church Email: lvlpaul40@gmail.com

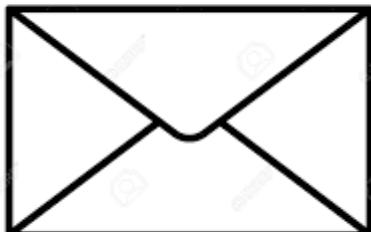
Secretary's Email: salcido.sandy8@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.



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
	Bonnie Nowaczyk 7305 Main Street Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 553-4286 or (989) 678-4286



Your Christmas donation envelope has been included with this issue of the "Epistles". You may place it in the collection plate at any service or mail to the church.

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

Item List for Food Pantry

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
Tuna Fish
Boxed Mac & Cheese
Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Beans of all kinds
Ramen Noodles



THE SCOOP ON YOUTH GROUP

Thanks to all the Youth Group families who helped make Thanksgiving a bountiful feast for two area families. We delivered turkeys and all the groceries for a family feast to families from USA and Lakers schools. Your generosity is a blessing.

December is busy for Youth Group. We are providing Advent Supper with Sunday School on Wednesday December 1st at 6:00 p.m. Youth are needed to help provide desserts for dinner, and to help clean-up after church service. We are also providing Christmas gifts for three area families; one each from Bad Axe schools, Lakers schools, and USA schools. I'd like to have a wrapping day with Youth Group kids on December 5th at 11:00 a.m. We will wrap gifts and then have lunch.



Then in January, we will be having a pre-order soup and braided coffee cake sale. Youth group will take orders until January 16th. Orders will be available for pickup on Saturday, January 22nd at 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. and after church on Sunday, January 23rd. The money raised will be used for a bowling party and a donation to our new seminarian. I'll let you know when I'll be needing help with prep and packaging.

All young persons from 5th grade through college are invited and encouraged to participate in Youth Group. Join us!

Susan Schember
Youth Group Leader
bssandsks@yahoo.com

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.

Issues, Etc.

The logo for Issues, Etc. It features the word "Issues" in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font. To the right of "Issues" is a black, stylized graphic of a cross. Below "Issues" is the word "Etc." in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below the main text is a black microphone on a stand. At the bottom, the text "Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font, followed by the website "www.issuesetc.org" in a larger, black, sans-serif font.



A Message from Sharyn Rockefeller & Ladies:

We want to thank Susie for sending the good food to the Rockefeller Home from the bazaar. We greatly appreciate it.

I want to thank Susie for ALL the wonderful things you do for St. Paul's Church.

God's Blessings & Love,

Sharyn & Ladies

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Snow Patrol Calendar

December 2021

1 - 7:00 p.m.
5 - 8:30 a.m.
12 - 8:30 a.m.
15 - 7:00 p.m.
19 - 8:30 a.m.
24 - 7:00 p.m.
25 - 8:30 a.m.
26 - 8:30 a.m.
31 - 5:00 p.m.

Fluegge Advent
Volunteer
Timmons
Stoeckle Advent
Fluegge & Program
Volunteer Christmas Eve
Timmons Christmas Day
Stoeckle
Fluegge New Year's Eve

TRUSTEES NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Rich Fluegge 248-709-0283
Jan Stoeckle 989-670-0702
Chad Timmons 989-553-4467

January 2022

2 - 8:30 a.m.
9 - 8:30 a.m.
16 - 8:30 a.m.
23 - 8:30 a.m.
30 - 8:30 a.m.

Volunteer
Timmons
Stoeckle
Fluegge
Volunteer

Once again we are asking for volunteers to lend a hand to remove snow from the sidewalks around the church on a select day or days of the month. Please check out the calendar posted in the narthex and sign up to 'push some snow'. We are all trustees of God's house.

February 2022

6 - 8:30 a.m.
13 - 8:30 a.m.
20 - 8:30 a.m.
27 - 7:00 p.m.

Timmons
Stoeckle
Fluegge
Volunteer

March 2022

2 - 7:00 p.m.
6 - 8:30 a.m.
13 - 8:30 a.m.
16 - 7:00 p.m.
20 - 8:30 a.m.
27 - 8:30 a.m.
30 - 7:00 p.m.

Timmons Ash Wednesday
Stoeckle
Fluegge
Volunteer Lent Service
Timmons
Stoeckle
Fluegge Lent Service

April 2022

3 - 8:30 a.m.
10 - 8:30 a.m.
14 - 7:00 p.m.
15 - 7:00 p.m.
17 - 6:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
24 - 8:30 a.m.

Volunteer
Timmons
Stoeckle Maundy Thur
Fluegge Good Friday
Volunteer Easter Sunday

Timmons



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5 – Wayne Dubs
6 – Cory Ornowski
8 – Ron Dubs, Jr.
12 – Angie Marie
12 – Harold Haag
13 – Joe Salcido, Sr.
14 – KatyAnna Kruse
14 – Suzanne Fritz
15 – Zachary Sember
15 – Grace Suggitt
17 – Kristin Rifenbark
20 – Krissia Krohn
21 – Tammy Timmons
22 – Cody McGee
22 – Ryan Tabar
23 – Richard Fluegge
24 – Matt Reibling
25 – Morris Dubs
26 – Anyssa Mandich
26 – Raymond Errer
28 – Dennis Schweitzer
28 – Kimberly Krohn
29 – Norbert Reehl
29 – Brady Renn
30 – Kyle Truemner
30 – Lee Truemner
30 – Randy Dubs
31 – David Gilbert



Dec. 8 – Dennis & Linda Schweitzer
Dan & Dedra Sherman
10 – Bryan & Jamie Parrish
28 – Michael & Anyssa Mandich

In His Service

December Elders

Dec. 1 @ 7:00 p.m. – Joe Salcido
Dec. 5 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague
Dec. 12 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
Dec. 15 @ 7:00 p.m. – Ken Haley
Dec. 19 – Warren Stoeckle & Ron Tabar
Dec. 24 @ 7:00 p.m.
Warren Stoeckle & Ron Tabar
Dec. 25 @ 8:30 a.m. Christmas Day
Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
Dec. 26 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague

Acolyte Schedule

Dec. 5 – Owen Reibling
Dec. 12 – Henry Haag
Dec. 19 – Molly Sprague
Dec. 24 – Chase Swartzendruber
Dec. 26 – Owen Reibling

Tithe Counters

Dec. 12 – Kim Krohn & Patti Reinhardt
Dec. 26 – Ruth Fluegge & Kari Ricker

December Altar Guild

Ruth Fluegge
Paula Holland

December Altar Flowers

Ruth Fluegge
Kris Gilbert



December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 6:00 PM Supper 7:00 PM Advent Vespers @ St. Paul	2	3	4
5 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism	6 6:00 PM Choir	7 6:15PM Elders 7:00PM Council	8 7:00 PM Advent Vespers @ Good Shepherd	9	10	11
12 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS / Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Children's Program Pizza Party No Catechism	13 6:00 PM Choir	14	15 6:00 PM Supper 7:00 PM Advent Vespers @ St. Paul	16	17	18
19 8:30 AM Service No Catechism	20 6:00 PM Choir	21	22	23 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	24 8:30 AM Christmas Day Service	25
26 8:30 AM Service No SS No Catechism	27	28	29	30	31 5:00 PM New Year's Eve Service	

2021

St. Paul's "Epistles"



St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church

7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755

