

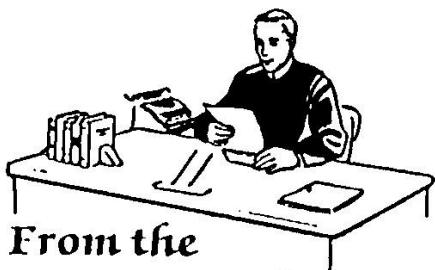


St. Paul's

"Epistles"

July / August 2022

Volume 38 No. 9



From the Pastor's Desk

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and the praise of God. (Phil. 1:9-11)

St. Paul writes to the Philippians and declares that in order to love the right things one must have knowledge and discernment. This is because love has an object to which it clings and we need to be able to discern if that thing is good according to God. Love without discernment is dangerous. It will be guided by our corrupt passions and might actually cling to something harmful. For example, I might love driving really, really fast on the freeway but I need to discern that that would be dangerous for my family. So according to sound knowledge, I keep it in check because my love for my family is the better thing.

Christians are to love the things of God. We know what things are good to love according to God's Word. God's Word allows us to love with knowledge and discernment according to His revealed will. For example, we love children - even and especially unborn children who need our help - for they are God's creation and through them we are turned away from ourselves in sacrificial service. We give thanks for the recent Supreme Court ruling doing away with Roe v. Wade that has plagued our country for nearly fifty years. We also love

marriage and family which God seeks to protect, building a hedge around it with a couple of Commandments (see the 4th and the 6th). We are able to discern that the LBGTQ and BLM Inc. agendas seek to undermine God's good order of this. We are able to discern that children being exposed to drag queen story hour is not loving them rightly. Christian love doesn't approve of everything but rather seeks what is excellent as St. Paul declares. This means love has to originate from a conscience informed by God. It has to be tempered and have constraints. Love that approves of anything and everything is driving really, really fast on the freeway. It sees not the better thing. It is dangerous.

The love of which Paul speaks that needs to abound more and more is the love for things of Christ who is the very image of the invisible God. To love Christ is to love the Redeemer who says to the disciples, *teach them all that I have instructed you* (Matt. 28:20). Christians love Jesus for He has loved us first and laid down His life and we therefore love His Word. That Word, recorded in the Bible, helps us to discern with knowledge what is excellent and gives us good things of God to love such as children, marriage, and family. It directs our affections to the right object as we live in the world but of the world.

May our Lord Jesus keep us steadfast in a true and right and good confession of the faith, loving Him and the things He loves, so that we would be *pure and blameless for the day of Christ* who will come on the last day and bring us into His love eternal.

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt



LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison Addresses SCOTUS Decision

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). Today is a monumental day, a day on which we simultaneously rejoice, pray, give thanks, lament, repent and weep. The Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade* and returned the responsibility for protecting life to the states. “*Held*: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives” (SCOTUS, *Dobbs v. Jackson*, 1).

“[The Lord] has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate” (Luke 1:52).

Today is also the Church’s feast day, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. These two events are a happy convergence.

Today we celebrate the birth of the one who, before he was born, leaped in joyful Spirit-inspired confession when his mother met the mother of his unborn Lord. Today we take comfort in our Lord’s unborn forerunner and in the unborn Savior. We also rejoice at the resounding victory for life in the United States. Many of us long doubted it would ever come. The Lord has had mercy upon us, even us, sinners all, even in these times.

Today we continue to speak out against the evil of abortion, which many will continue to practice and advocate in states bent on death. Many who have been misled by the father of lies and the culture of death greet this day with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Today we continue to sing that the Lord “has visited and redeemed his people” (Luke 1:68). Today we pray for unborn children who remain unprotected in many states. Today, in many places, the abortion industry continues to kill unborn children and welcomes those from states where such killing is illegal. Today we take comfort that by the Lord’s hand “we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us” (Luke 1:71).

Today we repent of our own lack of love for the least, the last and the lost, for mothers in need and families facing crises. Today we celebrate God’s

gift of the one He sent to “go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins” (Luke 1:76–77).

Today we recommit to love all, unborn and born. Today we receive the sunrise from on high, “to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death” (Luke 1:79).

Today we proclaim: Repent and believe the Good News that Jesus Christ, conceived by the Spirit, formed in the womb and born of the virgin Mary, died and rose for sinners. That includes all of us. Today we give thanks for John who preached repentance and pointed to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Today we lovingly invite all to listen to Jesus’ call, “repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). If you have caused an abortion, the taking of life, there is forgiveness in Jesus! Don’t be hardened in sin or advocate for more sins. Today you have hope in the One whose way John the Baptist prepared. Jesus is for sinners. Come join the rest of us forgiven sinners! Jesus is for you! You need not have a bad conscience! Repent and believe the Good News of God’s love for you in Jesus.

Today we lament that the U.S. Supreme Court continues to deny the unborn the legally recognized right to life. Even though *Roe v. Wade* has fallen, states can still allow the killing of unborn children. Today we pray that more unborn will leap for joy in the womb, as St. John did.

Today, even as we rejoice, we weep that U.S. policy continues to promote abortion globally. Today we bend our knees in prayer.

O Lord, “let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24). The Lord preceded His Son, our Savior, with a forerunner. We pray that today’s decision points ahead to the day when every state advances the cause of life and expands protections for unborn children.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Vacation Bible School 2022

Farm Fresh Faith - Growing in Faith

VBS was four days of faith, fun, and fellowship! We had a total of 43 children registered; 12 in preschool/kindergarten, 12 in 1st thru 3rd grade, and 19 in 4th-7th grade; 23 different families attended; daily attendance: Monday 36, Tuesday 37, Wednesday 39, Thursday 38.

The children learned from the book of Genesis, chapters 37 – 42. God was faithful to Joseph through all of his trials and tribulations. Each day the children were challenged to memorize the principle of the day. They learned that God is faithful to keep His promises; God is faithful to give us strength to obey Him; He is faithful to give us patience (when we struggle, God's plan is in his time – not ours; God will never forget us; and God will always care for us and provide for us. Every night the children received a prize for learning their memory. And, I'm happy to report that all of them did a GREAT JOB!

The week was a great success thanks to 25 wonderful volunteers who helped with everything from serving dinner, cleaning up after dinner, crafts, music, teaching, classroom helpers, registration table helpers, recess helpers, and music helpers!

Dinner was served each night for all students and volunteers. Thank you to: Sunday School, Youth Group, Church Council, and Ladies Aid for feeding the hungry group! A special thank you to Faye Errer, Elaine Thies, and Helen Kovach for baking dozens and dozens of yummy cookies for snacks each night. And one more big thanks to Pastor Wenskay for filling in for Pastor Suggitt while he was gone to a conference.

All VBS supplies were provided by the following: \$250 Thrivent Grant; \$200 Meijer Donation, Youth Group Easter Breakfast donations, and bottled water was donated by Bay Port State Bank.

This year we held a food, hygiene and cleaning supplies drive instead of our normal nightly offering. Children were asked to donated non-perishable food, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies to benefit the Huron County Blessing Boxes. Thanks to your generosity, The Blessing Boxes received: \$34.45 cash; 61 canned food items, 75 boxed food items, 180 hygiene products, and 19

cleaning supplies! Melissa Deming, who started the program, says "Thanks for filling my car up again! Time for deliveries!"

Thanks again for everyone who brought the children to hear God's word at VBS!

Susan Schember, VBS Coordinator

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KEEPING UP ON SUNDAY SCHOOL STUFF

Sunday school is off for summer break, but we will be back in September. Please continue to bring your children to church (or watch it online if you're on vacation) during the summer months, so they continue to hear God's word.



Rally Day will be Sunday, September 11th. Donuts for everyone AND first day of classes. Mark your calendars. If you are interested in teaching, helping, or running the Christmas program this year, please let me know asap.

I might plan a Sunday School outing yet this summer but will notify everyone via REMIND APP and email. Stay tuned!

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



2022 Congregational Bazaar

October 29, 2022
0:00 a.m.

CRAFTS

Let's try bringing crafts back! Have ideas.... Have the time... Ladies Aid is willing to help with the materials cost. Contact Ruth Kumaus

PLANTS

Got a green thumb? – dividing those indoor plants. Indoor plants are popular again, especially succulents. Please save and bring to the Bazaar to sell. Outdoor gardeners we could use your extras too. Plastic pots and dirt are available on the basement kitchen counter. Unfortunately, we don't have a good place to keep these items at church. So, we need you to store/keep them alive until the Bazaar.

MEAT PIES/CASSEROLES

Oh, the convenience of those frozen meal entrees. Test out your family's favorite casserole-type recipe that can be assembled, frozen and baked later. Then share the recipe with a Ladies Aid member. Why not offer our home baked versions. Watch for more info. We are thinking of a workday to assemble and then freeze.

GIFT BASKETS

The Gift Basket team has retired. However, YOU could donate a basket. You buy ALL the items to put in the basket. Ladies Aid will provide the wicker basket and wrapping supplies (paper, filler, bow, etc.). You wrap or we will.

Basket Suggestions:

- Keep the total cost at less than \$25
- Buy an anchor item which is about half the cost of the total basket such as a crockpot.
- Fill in with less expensive items to go with the anchor such as kitchen towels & cookbook.

We did not have kickball in June due to scheduling conflicts, but we might try again at a later date. Watch REMIND APP for updates.

Thanks to all the youth group kids who volunteered at VBS. You guys were a big help!

Next event:

Youth Group Camp-Out
Sunday, July 17 – Monday July 18
Harsens Island



All Youth Group kids (and their parents) are invited to come to our cottage after church on Sunday to enjoy two days of fun on the lake! 5th grade and older are encouraged to attend.

We will swim, kayak, paddleboard, possibly go tubing, play sand volleyball, BBQ, bonfire. The kids will be tent camping. Parents who stay will have the option of sleeping in tents or inside! Please bring: swimsuits, sunscreen, change of clothes, hygiene products, sleeping bags and pillows.



Lunch and dinner will be provided on Sunday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Monday before you all head back home.

I need to know who is coming, so I can plan accordingly. Please call or text me 586 246-4567.

Susan Schember, Youth Group Leader



Special Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, May 1, 2022, immediately following our worship service. Eleven members answered roll call. Pastor Suggitt gave a devotional on 'Jesus the Good Shepherd.'

The Secretary's report was read from the April 3, 2022 meeting. A motion was made and supported to accept the Secretary's report. A thank you was read from Ellery and Shirley Fritz.

Ruth Kumaus gave the Treasurer's report which showed about \$22,000 in checking; \$103.51 in petty cash; \$13,689.13 in savings.

Old Business:

- 1) Ruth Kumaus reported that an assortment of potting soils has been purchased for use to plant succulents and other plants to sell at the bazaar. The soil has been packed in smaller, more manageable size bags and are in the church basement.
- 2) Discussion was held concerning the 2022 church bazaar. Pot pies, both small and large will be made to sell at the bazaar. Ladies are to come up with dishes that can be frozen and sold at the bazaar. Sandy Salcido thought Advent calendars could be made and offered. Other ideas are welcome. We will hold a special meeting in August to discuss bazaar crafts, etc.
- 3) New tablecloths have been purchased for the food-service tables in the fellowship hall.
- 4) Ruth Fluegge and Sandy Salcido volunteered to purchase the new microwaves for the church kitchen.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joyce Metzger; supported by Wendy Tabar; carried.

The meeting closed with singing the doxology and saying the Lords' Prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Sandy Salcido, Secretary

A special meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President, Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, June 12, 2022, immediately following our worship service. Nine members were in attendance.

Two issues needed to be discussed and decisions made on both.

- 1) Ladies Aid will be furnishing breakfast for dinner on Thursday, June 30th for the VBS kids and helpers. The meal will include sausage links, pancakes, fresh fruit cups, juice boxes and milk. Ladies volunteered to buy the groceries needed for the meal; cook the food; serve and clean up. Workers are to arrive at 4:30 p.m. to prepare the meal for service at 5:45 p.m.
- 2) It was brought to our attention that Rev. Joshua Errer is continuing his education in the Doctor of Ministry program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The program is designed to help pastors, who are servicing full-time in the parish, to develop advanced skills in research to provide guidance and leadership in their local congregation and in the broader church. The topic he plans to study is how Christians can use the catechism to better understand and apply what they hear in the sermon each week. The cost of the program is \$6,000 per year plus books and supplies.

Discussion was held. Ruth Kumaus made a motion that we give \$2,000 to Josh to help continue his education in the ministry; supported by Joyce Metzger; carried.

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

Respectively submitted,

Sandy Salcido, Secretary



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| 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 Scheurer Hospital Long Term Care Room 55 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 |

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

The deadline for articles for the June issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" is Sunday, August 21, 2022. You can email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com.

Thanks for keeping the congregation informed about what's going at St. Paul.

In His Service for July

Elders

July 3 – Ron Tabar & Robert Haag
July 10 – Marc Reinhardt & Ron Tabar
July 17 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
July 24 – Ron Tabar & Robert Haag
July 31 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague

Tithe Counters

July 10 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel
July 24 – Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker

Altar Guild

Shirley Fritz
Melissa Deming

Altar Flowers

Shirley Fritz 453-2987
Melissa Deming 553-1304

In His Service for August

Elders

August 7 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
August 14 – Ron Tabar & Robert Haag
August 21 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague
August 28 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley

Tithe Counters

August 7 – Liz Reehl & Kim Krohn
August 21 – Jen Timmons & Brandy Gunsell

Altar Guild

Wendy Tabar
Faye Errer

Altar Flowers

Faye Errer 678-4105
Wendy Tabar 977-1537



LutheranPublicRadio.org



July 2 - Anna Haag
2 - Todd Murphy
4 - Gage Metzger
4 - Pastor Lee Wenskay
5 - Richard Welchner
7 - Patrick Fritz
11 - Katelyn Dubs
12 - Joshua Seibel
13 - Allen Roe
14 - Kolbie Holland
14 - Joell Wissner
15 - Jeannine Ziehm
15 - Kristen Suggitt
16 - Dennis Dubs
16 - Tristin Bruce
17 - Nichole Nowaczyk
24 - Sharyn Rockefeller
25 - Stephen Rockefeller
27 - Dylan Dubs
29 - Annette Prich
29 - Wanda Dubs
31 - Joyce Metzger
31 - Katelyn Romzek



2 - Ron & Diana Dubs
5 - Matt & Michelle Reibling
10 - Derrick & Paula Holland
13 - Jim & Kris Gilbert
28 - Travis & Kari Osantoski
31 - Shawn & Laura Swartzendruber

August Birthdays

Aug. 3 - Chris Gettel
3 - Jacob O'Hare
4 - Michelle Murphy
5 - Richard Renn Sr.
5 - Chase Swartzendruber
7 - Remington Bismack
7 - Benjamin Engelhardt
7 - Noah Osantoski
8 - Brandy Gunsell
11 - Derek Ricker
11 - Justin Dubs
12 - Don Parrish
12 - Jerold Stein
13 - Ruth Fluegge
13 - Kaylee Krohn
14 - Garry McKellar
15 - Adam Reinhardt
17 - Gerald Dubs
19 - Jeremy Jamieson
19 - Tiffany Jamieson
19 - Charles Wright
19 - Joe Salcido, Jr.
19 - Kevin Dubs
19 - Lacie Prich
22 - Rich Witkovsky
25 - Paula Holland
26 - Jeffrey Kovach
26 - Pastor Suggitt
27 - Jane Schuette
27 - Laura Toner
27 - Jennifer Timmons
28 - Jean Gransden
28 - Larry Prich
29 - Chris Tabar
30 - Madison Renn
30 - Kaitlynn Stein
31 - Deborah Ziehm

Happy Anniversary

Aug. 8 - David & Hope Gilbert
15 - Charles & Margaret Timmons
25 - Jason & Patti Reinhardt

July

| <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 | 4 | 5 6:30 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council | 6 6:30 PM Bible Study | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 8:30 AM Service | 11 Pastor on Vacation | 12 Pastor on Vacation | 13 No Bible Study Pastor on Vacation | 14 Pastor on Vacation | 15 Pastor on Vacation | 16 Pastor on Vacation |
| 17 8:30 AM Service Youth Group @ Harsens Island Pastor on Vacation | 18 Youth Group @ Harsens Island Pastor on Vacation | 19 Pastor on Vacation | 20 No Bible Study Pastor on Vacation | 21 Pastor on Vacation | 22 | 23 |
| 24 8:30 AM Service Quarterly Voter's Meeting | 25 | 26 | 27 6:30 PM Bible Study | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 8:30 AM Service | | | | | | |

2022

August

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 1 Pastor Away | 2 Pastor Away | 3 No Bible Study Pastor Away | 4 Pastor Away | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:30 AM Service | 8 | 9 | 10 6:30 PM Bible Study | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:30 AM Service | 15 | 16 | 17 6:30 PM Bible Study | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8:30 AM Service | 22 | 23 | 24 6:30 PM Bible Study | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:30 AM Service | 29 | 30 | 31 6:30 PM Bible Study | | | |

2022

St. Paul's "Epistles"



St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church

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Pigeon, MI 48755

