



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

February 2023

Volume 39 No. 4

Pastor's Message

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 1 Corinthians 9:25-26

This month will draw millions of people to tune in to the Super Bowl. I can't imagine the amount of pressure that the athletes feel to perform well. There are bonuses on the line for them winning the game. There

are endorsement deals ready to be had. There is that big, shiny trophy to hoist up. So, what do they do to prepare for all of that? Well, they train. Hard. They discipline their bodies with daily rigorous routines. They pay careful attention to what they eat, what goes into them, in order that all that self-control will pay off big on the final day - the day when they can lift that trophy and sign those deals with a new ring on their hand. This is commendable. Watching athletes exercise self-control to achieve their goal.

St. Paul also thinks this is commendable as an example for us Christians. Yet, not as a way to gain earthly treasures but to *press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14)*. The rationale St. Paul gives is this: if an athlete is very diligent in order to receive a perishable prize, should we not also be diligent as ones who receive the imperishable prize? Forgiveness of sin, life in Christ, and His eternal salvation? Because this trophy and crown will never tarnish and fade with the passing of time. It is an everlasting prize! It is worth more than endorsement deals and Super Bowl bonuses. Its worth is beyond compare and gives us hope and comfort in what our Lord has done for us.

With this imperishable prize of Jesus' victory for us in mind, we can propel ourselves into February looking forward not only to a football game but to the beginning of Lent where the exercise of self-control and spiritual disciplines often receive attention. This is good. To think about how we can exercise self-control and be diligent toward the things of Christ is good. If this means giving up something for Lent in order to discipline your bodily cravings and prayerfully realize that man does not live by bread alone but by every Word of God, then that's good. If it is to commit to a daily routine of reading the Bible and prayer in place of mindless scrolling on the internet, then that's good. St. Paul commends us to not run aimlessly but to have the goal of setting our eyes on our life in Christ. This takes discipline and this takes self-control because you are beset on all sides with the devil, the world, and your sinful nature which don't want you to be exercising the faith bestowed by Christ. Can you imagine the delight of the team which knows its opponent is not practicing for the big game? Can you imagine a player actually being surprised when he performs poorly after having done nothing substantial to prepare? *I do not box as one beating the air* (v.26) the Apostle says, that is, I do not pretend as if this isn't a real battle I'm engaging in.

St. Paul's analysis of the Christian life and using sport to highlight it is brilliant: like an athlete trains so too the Christian trains himself in the things of Christ - diligent in His Word, prayer, receiving His gifts at the Altar. But our hope is not in ourselves, it is in Jesus who has won the crown and shares it by His grace. To Him be the glory.

A blessed Lenten season to you all,
Pastor Suggitt





Beyond Reasonable Doubt

2023 HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE

**AND IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN
RAISED, OUR PREACHING IS USELESS
AND SO IS YOUR FAITH.**

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:14)

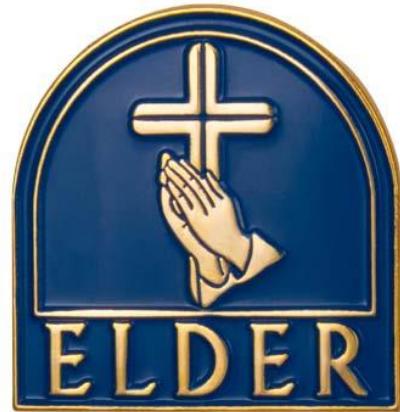
In the summer of 2023 we'll tackle a faith that isn't a fairytale, and we'll prove it. Beyond Reasonable Doubt.

**JULY 18-21, 2023
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY
CARBONDALE, IL**

We are hoping to take a bus with other Thumb area youth. Please see Pastor Suggitt for more information and to sign up.

Liturgical Notes

During the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, we put away singing *Alleluia*. This fast from singing it heightens our awareness of it when it returns on the great festival day of Easter. We also refrain from singing the *Gloria in Excelsis* and withhold the altar flowers during Lent. The color of the season is Violet.



Forgiving

The act of forgiving is usually not easy for us. We tend to hold grudges. We retreat from those who have offended us. Yet, we feel guilt when we offend. We hope others will forgive us our wrongs so a stalemate usually occurs.

It is said to forgive is divine. Well, it really is! God forgives us every time we ask. He gave us His Son to show us how.

So why do we struggle to forgive? Why do we hold a grudge? Why do we dig our heels in when we are wronged? Why are we so stubborn? Why do we take it out on our church by staying away?

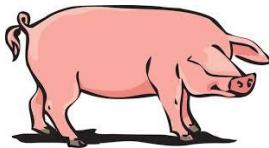
Jesus showed us the way with His actions. He even gave us the words to use in the Lord's Prayer. So, when He says 'forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors' He is telling us how to receive forgiveness AND how to forgive others.

Why not take these words of wisdom to heart? Why not ask to 'forgive our debts' at church this Sunday? While there you can hear God's Word and receive His gift of His very body and blood to strengthen your faith.

See you on Sunday!

The Elder Elder

**St. Paul Lutheran Church – Linkville
Pork Dinner
Sunday, February 26th
11:30am – 2:00pm**



Dine-in and take-out available.

Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, hot vegetable, coleslaw, rolls, dessert, and drinks

Prices: 13+ years - \$13
5 – 12 years - \$7
4 and under - Free

To pre-order for take-out, please contact Ruth Fluegge by phone or text @ (989) 598-2453

**ST. PAUL'S PORK DINNER
FUNDRAISER IS SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 26th
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

Sign-up sheets are posted in the North narthex for volunteer positions and for desserts needed. Please don't hesitate to sign up for both!

There are also lots of flyers that need to be posted in area businesses. Feel free to grab some and drop them off when you go to town, or school, or work, or to visit friends/family.

Big thanks go out to:

- Walther & Sons Farms for donating all the potatoes for the dinner.
- To Bay Port State Bank (and Jylan Shope) for donating 4 cases of bottled water for the dinner.
- To Les and Tracey Schaper for purchasing the pork for this year's dinner.
- To Thrivent (and those who donated them) for grants to offset the cost and increase our ability to Live Generously in our community.
- To Michigan Sugar for donating the sugar needed to make almost 100# of coleslaw.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JUNE 26th – 29th
5:30 – 8:00 PM**

Children aged 3 through 7th grade will be invited to join us for four nights of God's word, lessons, songs, crafts, recess, and even dinner! Lots of volunteers will be needed. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors!

LIFE QUOTE

Christians are to love their neighbors, including the unborn ... (Proverbs 24:11, 29:8-9) ... This means we can and ought to pray for the unborn, for women who have the choice of preserving or ending the life of their unborn child, for women who have had abortions and who need forgiveness in Christ—freely given through faith, for abortion doctors who are directly responsible for killing these children, and for our governing officials.

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life
lutheransforlife.org

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



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



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
Vida Fluegge 4910 McAlpin Road Cass City, MI 48726	Jean Gransden Medilodge Room D3 4782 Hospital Drive Cass City, MI 48726
Peggy Kelly 6282 Pine Street Cass City, MI 48726 (989) 872-5086	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	Les Schaper P. O. Box 181 Pigeon, MI 48755
Dennis & Linda Schweitzer 2875 Shebeon Road Sebewaing, MI 48759 (989) 883-9197	

Newsletter DEADLine

Articles for the March issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" are due Sunday, February 19th.

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!

Clothing Drive



What's in your closet?

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 barrel by the coat rack.

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*)

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From the Small Catechism: Confession

What is confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Private, or individual, confession and absolution is available by appointment with Pastor Suggitt. You may call him at 989.551.3976 to set up a time.



YOUTH GROUP

News

Calling all Youth Group Kids!!! We need your help with the Pork Dinner. Please sign up to help out with set-up and/or the actual event. The more helpers we get, the more smoothly everything will run. Thanks in advance for volunteering!

Youth Retreat: All Youth in 7th-12th grade are invited to attend the one-day event at Good Shepherd Cass City on Saturday, March 4th. Youth from all the Lutheran churches in the Thumb will be attending. Friends are always welcome! Cost is only \$15/person or \$25/family with multiple youth.
See attached flyer for more info

If your student(s) can attend, please rsvp by calling the office at Zion, Harbor Beach (989-479-3615) or emailing ckoessel@yahoo.com **by February 13!** The event includes breakfast snacks, lunch, dinner and other snacks for this event, and they need to know how many are coming. I really hope St Paul will have several youth attend.

Special thanks to Chuck & Judy Wright and Ron & Wendy Tabar for Thrivent Grants to help offset the cost of meals and snacks for this event.

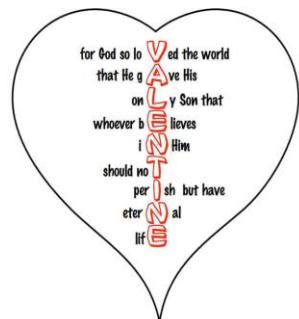
Thinking Big!!! I'd like to plan a big youth group Cinco de Mayo Party at Main Events in Cass City. This event would invite youth group kids from our circuit to join us for: ax throwing, darts, cornhole, batting cages, golf simulator, pool, karaoke, AND Mexican food! Still working on the details and pricing but stay tuned as more information becomes available.

Susan Schember, YG Director
586 246-4567
bssandsks@yahoo.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

The students are back in the classrooms hearing God's word each week after church. We played bells on January 15th and January 29th. We will be singing *Jesus Loves Me* in service on February 12th. Please practice with your children, as we will be singing two verses by memory. Copies were sent home for your convenience.

John 3:16



I hope everyone enjoyed Family Game Night on January 28th.

If you missed it, maybe you can make it next time. Our next fun event will be the Jesus Loves Me Party on Sunday, February 12th during class time. Pastor Suggitt will have a short message for everyone who stays. Then we will make some fun Valentine crafts AND ice cream sandwiches! If you stay for coffee hour, you are invited to join us too!

No Class on February 26th – Pork Dinner. This fundraiser will only be successful if everyone helps. Please sign up to bring a dessert, volunteer to help with set-up and/or the actual event and buy tickets for dinner! There will be jobs available for kids too (preferably 4th grade and older)



There are still some open dates for coffee hour snacks. Please check it out and help fill those empty spots. Coffee hour has been very well attended, so each week we need at least 5 dozen treats to feed the kids, teachers, and coffee hour group. Thanks in advance!

Future joint family event: Saturday, March 25th 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Caseville Roller Rink for roller skating, roller blading and lunch. Christ the King families have also been invited, so there will be lots of kids! There will be a sign-up sheet, so we prepare enough food for everyone.

Susan Schember, SS Superintendent
586 246-4567



December 19, 2022

To the saints of St. Paul Lutheran in Pigeon,

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

Thank you so much for your generous support throughout my time at seminary and during my year of S. T. M. studies! Your cards and aid are a constant source of encouragement to us. It's a blessing to have the opportunity to study theology and prepare for service in the Church by such a thorough education.

I am thankful to report all is going well with the Smith family. Our youngest, Ezra, is a calm and content baby, growing fast and already smiling and laughing at his older siblings. Felix will be two in March. He doesn't say much yet, but he usually gets his point across with loud grunts and gestures. My theory is that he is still speaking in German, since he spent his first few months in Germany. After the initial shock of becoming a big brother and sulking for about three days, Felix overcame his jealousy and is now the most affectionate big brother we've ever seen, smothering Ezra with kisses and hugs whenever he can. Elsie is about three and a half now. From the moment she's awake she is mid-conversation, and it takes her parent a few minutes and cups of coffee to catch up with her. She makes up the wildest stories and says such clever things she daily has us splitting our sides laughing. She is quite precocious for a 3-year-old; she is extremely responsible and very motherly to her younger brothers. She is enjoying "Preschool" at home with Abby. She shows an aptitude for foreign languages and has a wonderful memory. She especially enjoys reading Bible stories,

playing with Ezra like a beloved doll, and playing with Felix like a beloved puppy. She is our biggest source of entertainment and humor, and her warm and affectionate nature brings us all joy. Abby has her hands full with the three children. She has never been so busy, but she has never had a heart more full of joy and contentment than she has now with her family. She enjoys homemaking, reading to the kids and thinking up fun activities for them, cooking and baking new recipes, reading Scripture and devotional books, teaching Elsie, and if she has time, she enjoys all things craft related. She has especially enjoyed trying her hand at embroidery this year.

My S. T. M. studies are going well. I am benefiting from all aspects of my program. My higher-level classes are very enjoyable, and with only one or two a quarter, I have time to manage my other responsibilities. I am very grateful to have so many teaching opportunities this year and to share my joy and love for Greek and Hebrew with students here. I am still on track to complete my thesis in time for a spring graduation and will hopefully turn in my first draft not too far into the new year. I am presenting a chapter of my thesis as part of the seminary's upcoming exegetical symposium in January. With the encouragement of my professors at seminary and with the support of my family, I have decided to apply to several doctoral programs in the field of Old Testament and ancient Semitic languages. In the coming weeks the application windows will be closed and I will begin to hear responses. With these studies, I will be able to serve the Church not only as pastor but also in research, writing, and teaching. I hope to receive a call while in one of these programs if the opportunity to serve somewhere locally and part-time becomes available.

Joy in Christ!

Dylan, Abby, Elsie, Felix, and Ezra Smith

IN HIS SERVICE

February Elders

Feb. 5 – Ron Tabar & Matt Reibling
12 – Robert Haag & Josh Sprague
19 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
22 – Ash Wed. 7:00 p.m. – Joe Salcido
26 – Ron Tabar & Marc Reinhardt

Tithe Counters

Feb. 26 – Jen Timmons & Brandy Gunsell
Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker

February Altar Guild & Altar Flowers

Joyce Metzger
Ruth Kumaus

Snow Patrol – February 2023

5 - 8:30 a.m.	Stoeckle
12 - 8:30 a.m.	Fluegge
19 - 8:30 a.m.	Volunteer
22 - 7:00 p.m. Ash Wed.	Timmons
26 - 8:30 a.m.	Stoeckle



At the present time we are short one trustee. Therefore, we would appreciate it if some of our members 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 appreciated.



Feb. 3 – Les Schaper
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



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

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			6:30 PM Bible Study			
5 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour Ladies Aid Meeting 1:30 AM Catechism	6 6:00 PM Choir	7	8 6:30 PM Bible Study	9	10	11
12 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism	13 6:00 PM Choir	14	15 6:30 PM Bible Study	16	17	18
19 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism Newsletter Articles Due	20 6:00 PM Choir	21	22  ASH WEDNESDAY Divine Service 5:30 p.m. Good Shepherd 7:00 p.m. St. Paul	23	24	25
26 8:30 AM Service No SS No Catechism 11:30 AM Pork Dinner	27 6:00 PM Choir	28	2023			

St. Paul's "Epistles"



*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755*



Divine Service – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 22, 2023