



*St. Paul's*

# *"Epistles"*

*March 2023*

*Volume 39 No. 5*

The season of Lent is forty days. The Sundays in Lent are not counted (in case you were doing the math) because they are seen as a little break from the fast when we feast on the Body of Christ. The forty-day season seeks to mimic our Lord's forty day temptation in the desert and, of course, recalls Israel's forty years in the wilderness in which God tested them. In this season of the church year, repentance, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (giving to those in need) are put forward as practices to help Christians discipline themselves to be people of God who live not on bread alone but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God and thus shape their lives by it.

Repentance includes the recognition of sin in my life and my need to be forgiven. This is why Lent can sometimes be more subdued in nature and strike a very serious tone. Our sins are serious. They cost Jesus His life. We don't want to play games with the devil or think spiritual warfare isn't real. We were enlisted into the battle the moment we rose from baptismal waters.

So Lent can serve as a renewed reminder of that battle which we are engaged in - the fight against sin and the powers of darkness - but it also makes clear where that battle is won. Our Lord Jesus. Lent provides the opportunity to make a sort of spiritual inventory of our lives, where we have fallen short and what means God provides for us to be renewed. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving all serve this purpose that we would come to the Easter Festival with joy and renewed vigor to live as the people He redeemed us to be.

Our Lutheran Confessions have a helpful definition of repentance:

*This is what true repentance means. Here a person needs to hear something like this, "You are all of no account, whether you are obvious sinners or saints <in your own opinions>. You have to become different from what you are now. You have to act differently than you are now acting, however great, wise, powerful, and holy you try to be. Here no one is godly."*

*But to this office of the Law, the New Testament immediately adds the consoling promise of grace through the Gospel. This must be believed. As Christ declares, "Repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). That is, become different, act differently, and believe My promise. John the Baptist (preceding Christ) is called a preacher of repentance, but this is for the forgiveness of sins. That is, John was to accuse all and convict them of being sinners. This is so they can know what they are before God and acknowledge that they are lost. So they can be prepared for the Lord (Mark 1:3) to receive grace and to expect and accept from Him the forgiveness of sins. This is what Christ Himself says, "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in My name to all nations" (Luke 24:27). Smalcald Articles III III 3-6*

Repentance worked in us by God through the Holy Spirit, turns us from sin to receive with joy grace upon grace from our Lord Jesus. The practices and disciplines of Lent are toward this cause. Go ahead and lean into Lent. The Easter Festival is not far off.

God bless you,  
Pastor Suggitt

# LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

As part of your spiritual discipline during Lent, gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage one another in the things of Our Lord, hear the Word of God, pray, and grow in the one true faith. We will work through Luther's Small Catechism during our midweek services.

## **Ash Wednesday**

Divine Service

*with imposition of ashes*

Good Shepherd - 5:30 p.m.

St. Paul – 7:00 p.m.

## **March 1**

St. Paul

6:00 p.m. Supper and 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

## **March 8**

Good Shepherd

6:00 p.m. Supper and 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

## **March 15**

St. Paul

6:00 p.m. Supper and 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

## **March 22**

Good Shepherd

6:00 p.m. Supper and 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

## **March 29**

St. Paul

6:00 p.m. Supper and 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

# Miracles Will Usually Get Our Attention

There are numerous miracles performed by God in the Old Testament. God used these miracles to get our ancestor's attention. Many times it frightened them, astounded them, and I'm sure it made them think of a higher power. Imagine witnessing water flowing from a rock or watching the parting of the Red Sea. What about seeing the baby born of a very, very old mother; or knowing many of the dead first borns? And how about having only manna to eat for years. How would we have reacted to witnessing those miracles?

God didn't stop performing miracles. He made a virgin give birth, and that child grew and began performing His own miracles to get His follower's attention. He surely got his apostles attention when He calmed the sea and walked on water. How about the time He kept the wedding celebration going when He turned water into wine?

Can you imagine eating all the fish and bread you could eat and not see the cook run out of food even though you were with 5,000 others. They started with only five loaves and two fish. If that wasn't enough, you must have been bewildered witnessing the numerous healings He performed. Then there's the time He raised Lazareth from the dead.

But, He saved the best for last. He turned bread and wine into his own body and blood. After suffering and dying He was raised from the dead to secure forgiveness of sins and everlasting life to all who believe in these miracles.

WHERE THERE  
IS HOPE,  
THERE IS *faith*.  
WHERE THERE  
IS FAITH, *miracles*  
HAPPEN.

So even though we never witnessed all of these miracles we have all witnessed 'one' of these. Each and every Sunday we witness the return of Jesus in the very body and blood. He has asked us to partake

in. So why not join us at St. Paul and take part in this miracle performed for us and receive the gifts given to us by Jesus to strengthen our faith?

In Christ, The Elder Elder



The regular meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge immediately following our worship service on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Nine ladies answered roll call.

The meeting began with a reading from the *Portals of Prayer* – the real Messiah transforms us from sinners who are doomed to eternal death into His beloved who are promised eternal life.

As a constant reminder we recited the Mission Statement of St. Paul Lutheran Church – to serve in the interest and for the welfare of the church; to foster mutual love and Christian fellowship; and to promote the work of Christian charity.

A multitude of thank you cards were read in response to the 'gifts' given to numerous people and organizations at Christmas time.

Our treasurer reported that we have between \$20,000 - \$21,000 in the checking account to operate for the year. She asked that bills be given to her first; then she will submit them to the church treasurer for payment.

## Old Business:

1. Discussion was held concerning altar flowers while the horseradish is stored in the basement refrigerator. Shirley suggested that we place potted plants on the altar. They would not need to be placed in the refrigerator to keep them fresh.

## New Business

1. It was brought to our attention that Orphan Grain Train is in constant need for children's clothing. When you do your spring cleaning this year, please remember the Orphan Grain Train. Clothing items can be placed in the barrel under the coat rack.
2. A motion was made by Wendy Tabar; supported by Shirley Fritz to keep the slate of officers the same as last year. Carried.


A motion was made by Joyce Metzger to adjourn the meeting; supported by Janet Truemner. Carried.

The meeting concluded by singing the doxology and praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Sandy Salcido, Secretary



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
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Bonnie Nowaczyk 7305 Main Street Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 553-4286 or (989) 678-4286	Leasley Schaper P. O. Box 181 Pigeon, MI 48755
Dennis & Linda Schweitzer 2875 Shebeon Road Sebewaing, MI 48759 (989) 883-9197	



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>

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

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**Pastor: Rev. Christopher Suggitt**

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The 2023 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.



**Come enjoy dinner and Christian fellowship before services during this Lenten season.**

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
Evening Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

**March 1<sup>st</sup> @ St. Paul**

Hosted by Sunday School & Youth Group

**March 8<sup>th</sup> @ Good Shepherd**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> @ St. Paul**

Hosted by Ladies Aid

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> @ Good Shepherd**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> @ St. Paul**

Hosted by Church Council



After many faithful years of service, Dick and Lucille Welchner have decided that it's time to 'pass the torch' concerning the transport of goods to the Pigeon Food Pantry. They will be glad to fill you in as to what this entails. Just ask them. It is an as-needed endeavor so it doesn't take up too much time.

## ***SUMMER YOUTH GROUP OPPORTUNITIES***

High school students are invited to attend *ANCHORED IN HOPE* on Mackinac Island June 25 – 28. The gathering theme is based on Romans 5:1-8. Guest speakers and entertainers, including hip-hop artist FLAME, will encourage and challenge students to grow in their faith so that when faced with difficulties, they will persevere and develop the character that produces HOPE in their sure anchor, Jesus Christ. Check it out at [michigandistrict.org/srhigh23](http://michigandistrict.org/srhigh23).

Middle school students are invited to attend *ENOUGH* in Frankenmuth June 2 – 4. Students will grow in the faith and learn that, as sinful creatures, they'll never be fast enough to keep up with all the demands of life; never be smart enough to solve all the world's problems or pretty enough to please everybody; they'll never be good enough to save themselves, or anyone else. They will learn that Christ is all they need. He is everything they can't be and so much more. He is enough! Check it out at [michigandistrict.org/jrhigh23](http://michigandistrict.org/jrhigh23).

Susan Schember, Youth Group Leader  
586 246-4567  
[bssandsks@yahoo.com](mailto:bssandsks@yahoo.com)



A new Lenten devotional booklet is available at either entrance of the church. Please stop by and pick up yours soon.



We hope you've enjoyed having the kids sing and play bells during services. It's a great way to keep them involved in the service. Please help your students follow the service in the hymnal and bulletin each week. And, of course, share the children's inserts that Pastor provides each week. If your child is old enough to read, he or she should be able to follow along. If they can't read yet, they will learn many of the parts of the service by memory/repetition. When children see their parents following in the hymnal and bulletin, and singing the hymns, they are more apt to do the same. Remember... they are always watching and learning from your example.

Jesus Loves Me Party was fun. We had about 50 people stay after church! It was nice having some of the coffee hour members stay and participate in the lesson, crafts, muffins, and ice cream sandwiches. Thanks to everyone who joined us.

We will be practicing some songs for Palm Sunday and Easter in the next month. I will send home words so you can practice at home, in the car, or wherever you have the opportunity. Palm Sunday is April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Easter is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday school and Youth Group is hosting Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, fruit, yogurt, and pastries. SS and YG families are asked to bring pastries (coffee cakes, muffins, turnovers, strudel, cinnamon rolls, sticky buns) and help with serving and cleanup. Please arrive by 5:45. We will take a free-will offering to help offset the cost of Family Roller Skating Party.



Family Roller Skating and Blading Party is Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This is free to all church families, but I am asking everyone to sign up by March 19<sup>th</sup>, so I can prepare enough food. Christ the King families are also joining us that day. It should be a great time of fun and Christian fellowship. Bring your own skates and helmets OR get them there – no extra charge.

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

## YOUTH GROUP

**(Lots of info – You might want to print this and put it on your refrigerator.)**

I'm hopeful that St. Paul will be having a few kids attend the LCMS Youth Retreat at Good Shepherd Cass City on March 4<sup>th</sup>. If you did not remember to RSVP, you should still go. They just wanted an approximate number for meals and activities. This is for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades, and friends are invited (they don't have to be Lutheran to go).

Sunday School and Youth Group is hosting Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, fruit, yogurt, and pastries. SS and YG families are asked to bring pastries (coffee cakes, muffins, turnovers, strudel, cinnamon rolls, sticky buns) and help with serving and cleanup. Please arrive by 5:45. We will take a free-will offering to help offset the cost of Family Roller Skating Party.



Youth Group will be serving up Easter breakfast again this year. We will have pancakes and sausages

but maybe not cheesy eggs this year. Still working on the menu but wanted everyone to put it on your calendar. Breakfast will be served 7:15 – 8:15 a.m. I will have a plan for you soon. Stay tuned on REMIND APP and in the bulletin.

Our next Youth Group event is a big one! We are hosting the Thumb LCMS Youth Group Cinco De Mayo Party on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Main Events in Cass City. All youth and their parents are invited! Cost is \$15/person and includes: axe throwing, darts, billiards, cornhole, batting cages, golf simulator, karaoke, and taco/nacho bar. Check out the flyer for more details. Everyone who attends must complete an online waiver <https://www.vantora.com/e/maine/waiver/default.asp?ev=620466912>.

Susan Schember, Youth Group Advisor  
586 246-4567  
bssandsks@yahoo.com



## LIFE QUOTES

These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand.

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



Hadley Dean Ricker was born on January 26, 2023. Here's her stats - 8lbs 9oz 21 in long  
The new parents are Brenden and Jordyn Ricker.

Hadley was also welcomed by Grandpa Matt and Grandma Kari Ricker as well as Grandma JoAnn Rasmussen. Her Great-Grandparents are Grandparents: Matt and Kari Ricker, JoAnn Rasmussen. Her Great-Grandparents are Lee and Janet Truemner.



On Sunday, February 26, 2023 we were blessed to welcome into the family of faith at St. Paul by the washing and renewal of Holy Baptism Hayden

Dean Ricker, infant daughter of Brenden & Jordyn Ricker. Serving as sponsors for Hayden are Derek Ricker, Shane Rasmussen, Taylor Rasmussen, and Logan Rowell.

Hayden is the granddaughter of Matt & Kari Ricker and the great-granddaughter of Lee & Janet Truemner.

We also welcome into the family of faith at St. Paul by the washing and renewal of Holy Baptism Rhiannon Sky Bilski. Serving as sponsors for Rhiannon is Pastor & Kristen Suggitt.

Please keep these children in your prayers as they live their lives in Jesus.

**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLine**

Articles for the April issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" are due Sunday, March 19th. Please email your articles to Sandy at [salcido.sandy8@gmail.com](mailto:salcido.sandy8@gmail.com).

Don't forget those "Hats Off" items!

# IN HIS SERVICE

## Elders

March 1 – 7:00 p.m. Ron Tabar  
March 5 – Matt Reibling & Josh Sprague  
March 12 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley  
March 15 – Ken Haley  
March 19 – Ron Tabar & Robert Haag  
March 26 – Josh Sprague & Marc Reinhardt  
March 29 – Josh Sprague

## Greeters

March 5 – Harold & Marge Weisenbach  
March 12 – Jyl Shope  
March 19 – Annette Prich  
March 26 – Rich & Ruth Fluegge

## Tithe Counters

March 26 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel  
Liz Reehl & Kim Krohn

## March Altar Guild & Altar Flowers

Diane Dubs  
Annette Prich

## March Snow Patrol

March 1 - 7:00 p.m. Fluegge Lent  
March 5 - 8:30 a.m. **Volunteer**  
March 12 - 8:30 a.m. Timmons  
March 15 - 7:00 p.m. Stoeckle Lent  
March 19 - 8:30 a.m. Fluegge  
March 26 - 8:30 a.m. **Volunteer**  
March 29 - 7:00 p.m. Timmons Lent



March 1<sup>st</sup> – Kayla Deering  
Layla Provost  
Alexander Rogers  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Richard Dubs  
Kendyl Reehl  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Doug Fritz  
Lonnie Fritz  
Shana Adkins  
4<sup>th</sup> – Lance Deming  
Scott Thies  
5<sup>th</sup> – Devin Prich  
7<sup>th</sup> – Taylor Engelhardt  
8<sup>th</sup> – Abby Truemner  
9<sup>th</sup> – Richard Renn, Jr.  
10<sup>th</sup> – Ellery Fritz  
Linda Schweitzer  
14<sup>th</sup> – Laura Swartzendruber  
15<sup>th</sup> – Kristi Howard  
16<sup>th</sup> – Rowan Higgins  
17<sup>th</sup> – Blake & Brody Verbeek  
18<sup>th</sup> – Henry Gies  
Terry Gettel  
19<sup>th</sup> – Bonnie Nowaczyk  
Kenneth Rathje  
Henry Haag  
Hailey Romzek  
20<sup>th</sup> – Blain Renn  
Amy Haag  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Ken Haley  
26<sup>th</sup> – Lucille Welchner  
Stacey Farmer  
27<sup>th</sup> – Harper Shuboy  
Ron Tabar  
Valerie Fritz  
28<sup>th</sup> – Adam Metzger  
Kelly Haley  
29<sup>th</sup> – Lisa Sprague



March 7 – Van & Suzanne Fritz  
March 27 – Harold & Marge Weisenbach  
Larry & Annette Prich



# March

			<b>1</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Lenten Supper @ SP  <b>7:00 PM</b> Evening Prayer Service @ SP	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.</b> Youth Gathering @ Good Shepherd Cass City
<b>5</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Service  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>Ladies Aid Mtg.</b>  <b>1:30 PM</b> Catechism	<b>6</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Lenten Supper @ GS  <b>7:00 PM</b> Evening Prayer Service @ GS	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Service  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>1:30 PM</b> Catechism	<b>13</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Lenten Supper @ SP  <b>7:00 PM</b> Evening Prayer Service @ SP	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Service  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School & Coffee Hour  <b>1:30 PM</b> Catechism	<b>20</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Lenten Supper @ GS  <b>7:00 PM</b> Evening Prayer Service @ GS	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>11:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b>  Family Roller Skating Caseville
<b>26</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Service  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School & Coffee Hour  <b>No Catechism</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Lenten Supper @ SP  <b>7:00 PM</b> Evening Prayer Service @ SP	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

# 2023

# *St. Paul's "Epistles"*



*St. Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.  
Pigeon, MI 48755*



THE  
FORTY  
DAYS  
of LENT



RETURN  
to the  
LORD  
YOUR  
GOD