

"Epistles"



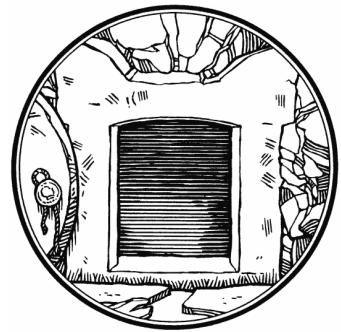
April 2023

Volume 39

No. 6

On that first Easter morning, the angel declared to the women who had made their way to the tomb where our Lord was placed, "You seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said." (Matt. 28:5-6). In this small brief statement, we have the most wonderful news to which all hope should cling. By announcing that Jesus was crucified, we are brought to learn that the Son of God bears our very flesh and blood. He was crucified for our transgressions and upon Him was laid the punishment we deserve. The Son of God died and the witnesses saw that and even held His dead body and placed it into the tomb. There is no doubt that the One whom John the Baptist pointed at and called the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) had done just that: taken the sins of the world upon Himself and died for them upon the cross. And so it is that the women go to the tomb looking to find the dead, human body of Jesus.

But there is more to the angel announcement than just that Jesus was crucified. Behold, the tomb no longer holds Him for He is risen, the angel declares. He is alive. Out of death and into life. Not as a spirit or ghost, but still bearing the flesh and blood that was crucified. He who died for the sins of the world has defeated death and lives - He's not in the tomb! This means that the payment of Jesus' life offered up to the Father on the cross in your place is fulfilled and accepted. This means that death doesn't win the day but Jesus does because He lives. This means that you who are joined to Him baptismally as the Apostle Paul says, pass through death and into life with Him through the very same bodily resurrection and death no longer has dominion to make you fear its consequences (see Romans 6:8-11 and Hebrews 2:14-15).



Yes, Jesus was crucified but He is risen. Yes, He died but He lives. These two things go together better than peanut butter and jelly and the angel at the tomb proclaims the wonderful Christian message. Sins are paid for and life is given - both by our Lord Jesus who went into the grave and came out alive! The Church's proclamation is a repeating of the angel on that first Easter morning. We seek the crucified and risen Jesus because He is our only hope and He will never disappoint. He let the grave have its way with Him for a time, in our place, but springs up alive as the giver of eternal life.

We have hushed proclaiming our Alleluias for a time during Lent, but Easter changes everything. Let death and the devil hear the victorious call of the angel and let all hearts be glad: Jesus is risen and we who are joined to Him shall live, too! He has laid down His life and taken it back up and our hope is made secure.

Jesus lives! Alleluia!
Pastor Suggitt

Holy Week Services

Holy (Maundy) Thursday 4/6

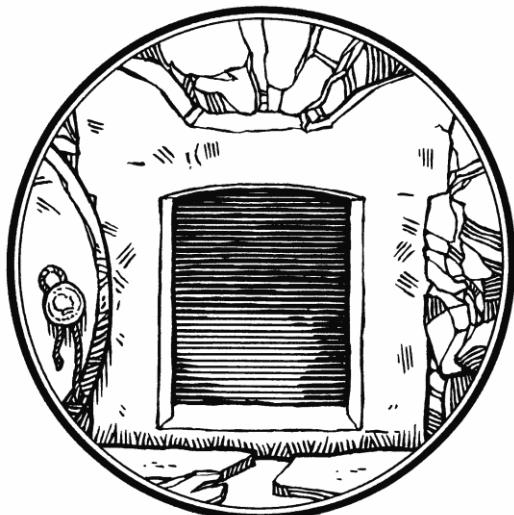
*Good Shepherd, Caseville - 5:30 p.m.
St. Paul, Linkville - 7:00 p.m.*



Good Friday 4/7

*Good Shepherd, Caseville - 1:00 p.m.
Chief Service
St. Paul, Linkville - 7:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Service*

The Resurrection of Our Lord



Easter Vigil 4/8

Grace Lutheran Church Fairgrove - 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise 4/9

St. Paul, Linkville - 6:30 a.m.

Easter Festival Service 4/9

*St. Paul, Linkville - 8:30 a.m.
Good Shepherd, Caseville - 10:30 a.m.*

Is This You?

When you can't sleep there's *Relaxium, Melatonin*, numerous sleep aids, even *Inspire* for sleep apnea – plus *My Pillow* and the *Swan* to cuddle with.

When you feel run down there's *Balance of Nature, Qunol CoQ10* or *Glucosamine Chondroitin*. And don't forget *turmeric, Super Beets or Relief Factor* plus a whole array of *vitamins and mineral supplements*.

If you're feeling a bit foggy there's *Prevagen or Neuriva* among others.

Need to lose some extra pounds? There's *Keto, Weight Watchers, Nutrisystem, Noom, or Golo* as well as countless others.

Want to tone up a bit? There's *LA Fitness, Planet Fitness, Golds Gym, Silver Sneakers* or your local gym.

When you're sick, you have a doctor or specialist to prescribe or repair almost any ailment. We have pills and operations for that.

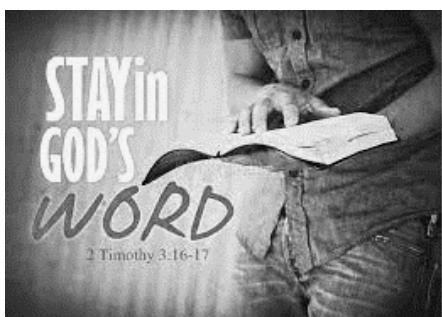
When it comes to our bodies, we will buy our health from Amazon or a drug store. We will get up before dawn to go see that specialist or get that procedure done. And then there's the weekly therapy trip – all without a second thought.

So ask yourself this question. *Are you as concerned about your soul as you are your body?*

Just saying.....

But fortunately for us God sent his own Son who makes it easy for us. He tells us He is the spiritual food for our souls. So come and hear His Word and partake of His spiritual 'soul' food this and every Sunday.

The Elder Elder



The regular monthly meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by president, Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, March 5, 2023. Eight ladies answered roll call.

A devotional from Portals of Prayer was read by the secretary. It was entitled *God's Devotion*. Even though we are sinful, not good or righteous, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross assures us of God's unconditional love, mercy, and grace for us each and every day.

We recited the Mission Statement of St. Paul Lutheran Church Ladies Aid Society.

The Ladies Aid secretary read the minutes of the February meeting; approved. The treasurer reported that we have about \$22,000 in our checking account; \$18,000 in the savings account.

Old Business:

1. Discussion was held concerning LWML collections. They are to be turned in quarterly as specified in the Ladies Aid book. Joyce volunteered to count them each quarter.
2. Grave blankets – Ashley Fritz Bumhoffer will demonstrate how to make them. She will also make and donate the bows for them. We will use the Christmas trees that are no longer useable at church. We will use treated wood for the base, decorate them with bulbs and bows, and supply tent stakes to anchor them. Need to set a date for this project.
3. Discussion was held on whether we would donate again towards Rev. Joshua Errer's continued education. A motion was made by Jyl Shope; supported by Joyce Metzger to donate \$2,000 to help Josh continue his education once again in the Doctor of Ministry program. Carried.

New Business:

1. Discussion was held on the need to do an inventory of the church kitchen. A couple of the electric roasters either do not work or do not work properly. Several other items need to be replaced. Joyce Metzger made a motion to review and replace items needed; supported by Wanda Dubs. Carried.

Joyce Metzger made a motion to adjourn the meeting; supported by Wanda Dubs. Carried. We closed with singing the Doxology and reciting the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Salcido, Secretary

Youth Group SCOOP



Youth Group will be making and serving breakfast for everyone on Easter Sunday between Sunrise and Festival Services. You can enjoy pancakes, egg casseroles, hashbrowns, ham, sausage, fruit, and pastries with juice, milk, coffee and tea. A free-will offering will be collected to help offset the cost of Vacation Bible School. We hope to see all of you there!

Youth group will set up and prep on Saturday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m. It won't take long if lots of you show up. Then I'm asking youth to arrive at church on Easter morning at 6:45 a.m. to finish cooking and be ready to serve. I suggest wearing a Thrivent shirt until we're done with breakfast, then change into your church clothes for service at 8:30 a.m. We will also need to finish cleaning up after church.

To offset the expense of the upcoming LCMS Youth Group Cinco de Mayo Party, Youth Group is having a SOUP SALE. Soups can be pre-ordered through any youth group member or by turning in an order form at church by Easter Sunday. Soups will be made on Friday, April 14th and available for pickup on Saturday, April 15th from noon until 1:00 p.m. OR Sunday, April 16th after church. Youth group kids are asked to come help sort orders on Saturday morning, April 15th at 10:00 a.m.



Next Youth Group event is Cinco De Mayo Party at Main Events in Cass City on May 5th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please see the poster in the North Narthex. Cost is \$15/person. Youth 5th grade and older (and their parents) are invited to come for axe throwing, billiards, cornhole, football bowling,



darts, golf simulator, batting cages, and all-you-can-eat taco and nacho bar. All youth from the area LCMS churches are invited to this event. Please RSVP to me via text by April 29th, so I can prepare enough food! Spread the news and sign-up!

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



Sunday School is singing and playing bells during service on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We've been practicing, but it would be great if you also practice with the kids at home!

The Family Roller Skating Party was a huge success! We had over 70 attendees between St. Paul and Christ the King. Thanks to everyone who helped with cleanup that day when I needed to leave early.

There will be an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt immediately after service on Easter Sunday, April 9th. It won't take long, so all parents are encouraged to stay and let your kids hunt for eggs and prizes/treats.

The Sunday School calendar year is coming to a close. Our last day will be Recognition Sunday on Mother's Day, May 14th. Please join us after church for pastries and beverages. Confirmation Sunday is the following weekend, May 21st.

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

SPREAD THE NEWS



Vacation Bible School GONE FISHING is coming June 26 - 29 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Children age 3 through 7th grade are invited to come hear God's Word, make some fun crafts, sing some great songs, play outside, and even have dinner! Going to need lots of volunteers, so let me know if you can help out. Registration forms will be available in May. - Susan Schember



This year we are having a Sips and Sweets Apron Party on Saturday, May 13th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Bring or wear a favorite apron to show or display.



We will have hot and cold drinks and lots of sweet treats to enjoy. There will be some fun games, a few readings, a craft, and time for attendees to share stories about their special aprons. Invite your moms, grandmas, aunts, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, nieces, friends to spend a couple hours with us.

This event will be free to everyone, but I am putting up a sign-up sheet out after Easter to make sure I have enough craft supplies and treats. We will also be collecting new and gently used children's clothing for Orphan Grain Train. They are constantly in need of kid's clothes and shoes, so clean out those closets!

Please sign up, just so we have an idea how many sips and sweets to prepare.



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	Dennis & Linda Schweitzer 2875 Shebeon Road Sebewaing, MI 48759 (989) 883-9197
	<i>Why not brighten their day with a phone call or a card? Let them know they have not been forgotten.</i>

HATS OFF

- Congratulations to Grace Suggitt. She finished 6th in the Regional gymnastics meet and 11th in the State! Woohoo!
- Thank you to Richard and Lucille Welchner for all the years of handling Food Bank donations. Your time and talents are truly appreciated! Jeramy and Melissa Deming and Wanda Dubs will be taking over. Good luck filling those shoes!
- Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make our Pork Dinner fundraiser a big success. We raised over \$4000! More thanks to our sponsors: Thrivent (and those who donated their grants), Bay Port State Bank, Walther Farms, Walsh Meat Packing, Sherwood on the Hill, and The Schaper Family.

Spring CLEAN UP

Spring is here! Swans and geese are flying. Robins are nesting. We all know what that means... The grass is beginning to turn green and will soon need to be mowed.



The Cemetery Committee has asked that everyone remove any items off the cemetery so cleaning and mowing can begin when the time is right. Please do so AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

St. Paul's "Epistles" is published monthly by St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7292 Kilmanagh Road, Pigeon, MI, 48755.

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

Church Email: lvpaul40@gmail.com
Secretary's Email: salcido.sandy8@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Catechism: 1:30 p.m.



Articles for the May issue of St. Paul's "Epistles" are due Sunday, April 23rd. Let's keep the entire congregation informed about what's going on in your organization.

Please place your articles in the "Epistles" mailbox or email them to salcido.sandy8@gmail.com. Don't forget those "Hats Off" items.



Orphan Grain Train of Sebewaing needs to restock the shelves with suitable used clothing.

The center (126 E. Main Street) is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Clothing: *gently used or new*

- Infant, children'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*)



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.



LutheranPublicRadio.org



A very good friend of mine recently lost her mother. Her mom was a life-long devoted Christian. She taught Sunday School, ran youth group camps, and was on various boards at her church. During the funeral, my friend read three speeches that her mother had given during her life. I wanted to share one of them with you. It's amazing how relevant this speech is in today's world, but it was actually written in 1945 by a 16-year-old girl! Here it is:

*When Dr. **** asked me to talk here today, my immediate reaction was terror, and then I was glad I accepted. I don't believe that a teenager has ever been given the honor and privilege of talking to a church congregation in this manner. This is the ideal opportunity to let off a lot of steam shall we say, that has been accumulating from time to time.*

The topic I have today is "the Challenge of Stewardship to Youth." Youth has a challenge today. A greater one, perhaps that ever before. Whether this broken and decaying world can be saved and made better depends on youth and their response to stewardship of life.

Stewardship must start in the home A Christian home. For what is taught there is carried out into the world and sets examples for those who have not been so fortunate as to have been taught the sacredness of their own lives.

I'm afraid that lately not enough stress has been put on the importance of Christianity in the homes. For if there were, I'm sure that on Sunday mornings we would see many more young people in church. Why is it that so many young people don't come to church? Is there something that's so unglamorous about the church that they don't care to come? Or is it the lack of religious training in early life at home? If young people are to be good Christian stewards, they must have a religious background and thorough understanding of the love of God.... that our total possessions, time, and service belong to God.

The response of youth to Stewardship is the response to the call of God. Jesus had great faith in children and their ability to respond to the call of God. We should all, as Samuel did when he heard God calling him by name, simply answer, "here I am."

YOUTH RALLY

On March 4, despite the threat of a great snowstorm, the Thumb area Lutheran churches conducted a Youth Rally with the theme *Being A Christian In A Non-Christian World*.



The event was held at Good Shepherd, Cass City and featured as the main speaker the Rev. Peter Ill from Illinois. With over 25 youth attending, they enjoyed learning, worship (including a closing Divine Service), many games, and plenty of food.

Breakout speakers included Rev. Steve Stolarczyk, Rev. Thom Garrison, and Pastor Suggitt who taught a session on *Being A Christian In A World Of Fake News*.



IN HIS SERVICE

APRIL ELDERS

April 2 – Josh Sprague & Matt Reibling
April 6 – (7:00 p.m. Maundy Thurs.) – Ron Tabar
April 7 – (7:00 p.m. Good Friday) – Joe Salcido
April 9 – (6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise)
 Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
April 9 – (8:30 a.m. Easter Festival)
 Ron Tabar & Robert Haag
April 16 – Josh Sprague & Marc Reinhardt
April 23 – Ron Tabar & Robert Haag
April 30 – Ken Haley & Matt Reibling

APRIL GREETERS

April 4 – Jason & Patty Reinhardt
April 9 – Dick & Lucille Welchner
April 16 – Wendy Ewald and Boys
April 23 – Norbert & Liz Reehl and Girls
April 30 – Charlie & Margaret Timmons

TITHE COUNTERS

April 30 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel
 Jen Timmons & Brandy Gunsell
 Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker

APRIL ALTAR GUILD & ALTAR FLOWERS

Brandy Gunsell
Tiffany O'Hare

SNOW PATROL

April 2 – 8:30 a.m. **Stoeckle**
6 – 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday **Fluegge**
7 – 7:00 p.m. Good Friday **Volunteer**
9 – 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise **Timmons**
 16 – 8:30 a.m. **Stoeckle**
 23 – 8:30 a.m. **Fluegge**
 30 – 8:30 a.m. **Volunteer**



April 14 – Gerald & Diane Wildman
April 16 – Ken & Faye Errer
 Joel & Laura Toner
April 23 – Terry & Chris Gettel
 Warren & Jan Stoeckle
 Ken & Tiffany Shepard
April 25 – Jim & Linda Roe
April 26 – Josh & Lisa Sprague
April 27 – James & Tiffany O'Hare
April 29 – Manuel & Elaine Thies



April 1 – Claire Suggitt
 Jessica Higgins
 Michelle Haley
April 2 – Levi Renn
 Brock Shope
April 3 – David Jamieson
April 4 – Aaron Diebel
April 5 – Lilah Reibling
April 6 – Ava Reibling
 Michelle Reibling
 Garrett Toner
April 8 – Nashia Ondrajka
 Susan Schember
April 9 – Courtney Fritz
 Tyler Metzger
April 11 – Joshua Fritz
April 12 – Peggy Kelly
April 13 – Robert Haldane
April 14 – Saige Ondrajka
 April 16 – Cathy Haley
 April 18 – Craig Sears
 April 20 – Erin Shuboy
 Brian Rosenthal
 April 21 – Dallas Holland
 April 24 – Lane Higgins
April 25 – Abigail O'Hare
April 28 – Emma Reibling
 Miles Shuboy
 Beverly Wise
April 30 – Hunter Dubs

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2 8:30 AM Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School Ladies Aid Mtg. 1:30 PM Catechism	3	4	5	6 5:30 PM @ GS 7:00 PM @ SP Holy (Maundy) Thursday	7 1:00 PM @ GS 7:00 PM @ SP Good Friday	8 7:00 PM Easter Vigil @ Grace Lutheran Fairgrove
9 6:30 AM Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM Festival Service No Catechism	10	11 6:15 PM Elder Mtg. 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	12	13	14	15
16 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School Voters' Mtg. 1:30 PM Catechism	17 Fellowship Hall Floor	18 Fellowship Hall Floor	19 6:30 PM Bible Study	20	21	22
23 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism	24	25	26 6:30 PM Bible Study	27	28	29
30 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School No Catechism						2023

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St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church

7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755



A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN 3 DAYS