



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

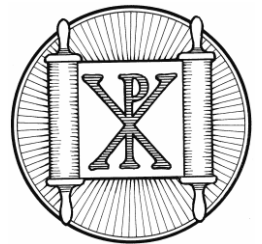
May 2023

Volume 39 No. 7

Pontius Pilate says famously "What is truth?" during the fake trial he held with Jesus in front of the angry mob just before he has Jesus crucified. Pilate is not asking a serious question here. Jesus has just told him, "Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate's response, "What is truth?" is his way of saying, "Truth doesn't matter when facing down an angry mob which is shouting for blood. Truth will do me no good. What matters is giving them what they want so I can save my own skin. Look at that mob. Truth will not help me. What is truth compared to them?" So Pilate caves, gives in, and hands Jesus over to be crucified. (See John 18:33-40)

The Christian church is tempted to follow in the footsteps of Pilate. Are not many now faced with angry mobs and shouting voices? Mobs and voices that threaten if we don't give our accent to abandoning our Lord's truth? We are not insulated from it because we live in a rural part of the Thumb. While the mob and voices may not be loud here yet, you see them and hear their teachings as they find their way in through TV, movies, internet, and the media. What is truth? Truth is that which is found in God's Word and embodied in the only begotten Son of God. But the church is tempted to do away with Him like Pilate who feared the crowd more than he feared God. It may not look like a wholesale abandonment of our Lord and His truth at first, the mob will pick away and pick away. What do they try and teach you about marriage? What do they try and teach you about men and women, children (especially the unborn), creation, money, and ethics? What is their guide? The prudent sees danger and hides himself [in the revealed truth of our Lord and His Word], but the simple go on and suffer for it (Proverbs 27:12).

Our Lord Jesus prays for His Christians on the night He was betrayed, They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth (John 17:16-17). It is Jesus' desire to protect us from Pilate's insincere question and be grounded firmly in His Word of truth. This will set us apart, sanctify us, because we will bear the Word of God in our lives and in our confession of Him as the One to be exalted above the crowd. And we can do this confidently, unlike Pilate. The gates of hell will never prevail against our Lord and His Word. Our Lord's church has a better way because it is the way of real truth and life and can actually talk of sin and forgiveness found in Christ. There is no room for that in the mob, only conform or be crucified.



So you have the truth. It's revealed in God's Word which is as true as Jesus' death and resurrection for you. Ground yourself in it. Come and bask in it as it's delivered to you every Lord's Day (Sunday). Be strengthened against temptation as you kneel before the True God, receive His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and gain wisdom to navigate through this fallen world as a child of God.

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. Psalm 86:11

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt



The regular monthly meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, April 2, 2023, immediately following our worship service.

The devotion for the day was from the *Portals of Prayer*. Jesus does not disappoint us. He entered Jerusalem to ascend the cross, where the King of kings crowns us with forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

The Mission Statement of St. Paul Lutheran Ladies Aid Society was recited by all. Ten ladies answered roll call. The Ladies Aid secretary read the minutes of the March meeting; approved.

Old Business:

1. Grave Blankets

Patti Reinhardt has a grave blanket that we can look at before we begin making them. She will bring it next Sunday. Joyce and Peggy have some wreaths that we can decorate to place on easels to sell at the bazaar. Wendy has two old trees we can take apart and use to assemble grave blankets. We decided to designate Wednesday, April 26th at 9:00 a.m. as a work day for them. Each member should bring whatever items they have to decorate such as pine cones, bows, etc. We will make them 3 feet by 2 feet.

New Business:

1. Discussion was held concerning how many Easter lilies we would supply for the altar on Easter. Sandy asked Pastor and he suggested we purchase eight. Ruth Fluegge volunteered to contact Ashley Bumhoffer @ Flowers by Ashley in Sebawaing to order them.

A motion was made by Wendy Tabar; supported by Shirley Fritz to adjourn. Carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Salcido

MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET

Sips and Sweets Apron Party

Saturday, May 13th 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

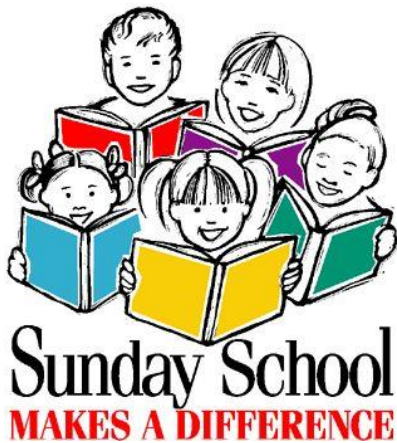
Bring or wear your favorite apron to show or display. Sips and Sweets – no big meal, just finger foods and drinks. We will be decorating aprons to take home.



Please bring new or gently-used children's or men's clothing to donate to Orphan Grain Train. See you there!



SUNDAY SCHOOL FINALE



The end of the Sunday School calendar year is almost here. We will have our last class on May 7th and then Recognition Sunday is on Mother's Day, May 14th. Those two dates we will also be playing bells. Everyone will be invited to stay for coffee hour with pastries on Recognition Sunday.

The kids put together 80 Jared Boxes on April 23rd. Thanks to the teachers and Ruth Kumaus for making the day easy.

The teachers and Pastor are working on a plan for next year's classes/lessons. Ultimately, we are hoping to teach the same basic lessons at varying levels so that all the children are learning the same Bible stories. Lessons may be enhanced by adding songs, crafts, activities or other media. If any mom or dad is interested in teaching or helping teach next year, please let me know.

Mark your calendars***

Rally Day Sunday (beginning of Sunday School 23/24) is Sept 10th!

Susan Schember
586 246-4567
bssandsks@yahoo.com



Youth Group served about 100 meals for Easter breakfast. Our free-will offering (\$320) will be used to help offset the cost of VBS.

A special thanks to Richard and Ruth Fluegge for the Thrivent grant that helped pay for groceries and supplies; to Terry and Chris Gettel for donating the sausage; and to Tracy Schaper for donating the ham. Thanks to all the youth and their parents and my family who helped set-up, cook, serve, and cleanup.

Youth in 8th grade and older are needed to help with VBS. Hope you can be there.

Hoping to plan another Harsens Island campout this summer. I will start talking with some of you about possible dates, so we can get it on the calendar.

Susan Schember
586 246-4567
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Church Email: lvlpaul40@gmail.com
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Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Youth Catechism: 1:30 p.m.



*May Jesus' words
console you,
strengthen you
and fill you with peace.*



The 2023 flower calendar has been posted in the church office.

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.



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. All children and volunteers should bring a plain white t shirt. Registration forms are available now.

Susan Schember

+ Vida Patricia Fluegge +

September 25, 1924 – April 29, 2023

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant Vida.

Vida Patricia Fluegge was given life by her creator and was born on September 25, 1924, the child of William and Nora (Bullard) Burrows. She received the heavenly washing of Holy Baptism and was long time confirmed member of St. Paul Lutheran Church where she was sustained by the life-giving Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In 1943 she received the gift of a beloved husband in her spouse, Herbert Fluegge. She was blessed with the gift of children, April, Darl, and Richard. God blessed Vida's life with many special people as she served God in her vocations at home, church, work, and in the community. Finally, on April 29, 2023, God blessed Vida with a holy death and took her home to rest in the arms of Jesus to await the resurrection of the dead.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our sister Vida.

GRADUATE SUNDAY



College graduations are almost here. High School Graduations are right after that! Help us celebrate your graduates at St. Paul on Sunday, June 18th. Graduates are invited to attend church in their cap and gown as we recognize their accomplishments. Donuts and beverages will be served in the fellowship hall immediately after service for everyone.

Please submit a photograph of your graduate, a headshot (black & white if possible) and include: full name; school they are graduating from; degree earned (college); and future plans (college, technical school, trades, employment). Info can be dropped off on the secretary's desk or submitted via email to: salcido.sandy8@gmail.com BY MAY 21st please.



Lutheran Service on Television:


worshipanew.org

DirectTV Channel 377 - Sundays 11:30am

Antenna Channel 49

Comcast Channel 8



Fern Dubs 2423 Smith Road Bay Port, MI 48720 (989) 453-2959	Don Fibrantz Satchell's Christian Foster Care Home 2662 E. Caro Road Caro, MI 48723
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	Jeannine Ziehm c/o Jennifer Scott 5318 Indian Trail Ypsilanti, MI 48197
	<i>Why not brighten their day with a phone call or a card? Let them know they have not been forgotten.</i>

NewsLetter DEADLine

The deadline for articles for the June issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" is Sunday, May 21, 2023. You can email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com.

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



Positive Alternatives is a Christ-Centered, Pro-Life ministry working to reach the hearts and minds of abortion minded and abortion vulnerable women to encourage and empower them toward life for their unborn child. The love they have extends beyond the birth of the baby. Families are assisted with parenting help and encouraged to follow Jesus.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

For a number of years members of St. Paul who are deeply committed to the Sanctity of Human Life have taken one of the Boomerang bottles home on Mother's Day. They have prayed for the people served by Positive Alternatives, filled their bottle with loose change, bills or even checks, and returned them on Father's Day.



The pregnancy center volunteers focus on being living examples of Jesus to the women they work with each week. You can too! Watch for the bottles at either door. They will be available on Mother's Day, May 14th.

Grandkids Make Life Grand



Callie Rose Ricker was born to Derek and Emily Ricker on March 14, 2023. She weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Callie was lovingly welcomed by grandparents Matt & Kari Ricker and Lloyd & Laura Schinnerer as well as great-grandparents, Lee & Janet Truemner.



Pumpkin Patch Planning

Sunday School and Youth Group benefit from the pumpkin fundraiser that we do each year. The last couple years we have struggled to keep the pumpkin patch clean. So, I'm planning a weeding calendar where families will take turns pulling or hoeing weeds to keep the pumpkin patch nice and neat! I plan to plant the pumpkin patch on Wednesday, May 31st at 4pm. If someone could be sure to have the patch plowed and tilled before then, I would truly appreciate the help. Any kids who can come help plant, please show up. It won't take long, and I'll have popsicles.

I will make the weeding calendar and get it to each of the families along with contact numbers. Families will be paired up to make the workload easier and to spread the work across ALL OF US - NOT JUST A FEW. The weeding schedule will be done bi-weekly, so you can coordinate days and times to get the patch cleaned on your turn. This should help keep the weeds to a minimum and we will hopefully grow bigger, better pumpkins!

Susan Schember
Youth and Sunday School Director

BIRTHDAYS!

3rd - Cory Fritz
 Harrison Conrad
 6th - Wendy Tabar
 8th - Mark Sticken
 9th - Tonya Parrish
 10th - Mindy Zmierski
 Zane Schember
 12th - Susan Errer
 Kayla Parrish
 13th - Nevaeh Parrish
 14th - Ruth Kumaus
 16th - Gabriel Rogers
 18th - Onalee Carlisle
 19th - Michelle Gayari
 Susan Dubs
 21st - Melissa Deming
 Ken Errer, Jr.
 Rebecca Wright
 22nd - Loren Stein II
 25th - Daniel Dubs
 26th - Manuel Thies
 28th - Jaime Harmer
 29th - Ava Gies
 31st - Julie Kreh
 Chloe Collon



7th - Marc & Jodi Reinhardt
 8th - Chad & Jennifer Timmons
 Don & Peggy Parrish
 10th - Joe & Sandy Salcido
 11th - Todd & Michelle Murphy
 17th - Dennis & Fern Dubs
 Pastor & Sheryl Wenskay
 21st - Rich & Heidi Perkins
 23rd - Kevin & Sheila Truemner
 26th - Branden & Jessica Albrecht
 29th - Jeff & Erin Shuboy

IN HIS SERVICE

ELDERS

May 7 – Marc Reinhardt & Josh Sprague
 May 15 – Ron Tabar & Robert Haag
 May 18 – Ascension Day @7:00 p.m.

May 21 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley
 May 28 – Josh Sprague & Matt Reibling

TITHE COUNTERS – 5/28/2023

Liz Reehl & Kim Krohn
 Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker


MAY GREETERS

May 7 – Derrick & Paula Holland and Family
 May 14 – Josh & Lisa Sprague and Family
 May 21 – Ken & Cathy Haley
 May 28 – Ron & Wendy Tabar

MAY ALTAR GUILD & ALTAR FLOWERS

Janet Truemner
 Kari Ricker

May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5 6:30 – 8:30 PM Youth Cinco de Mayo Party Cass City	6
7 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS/Coffee Hour Ladies Aid Mtg. LA Workday 1:30 PM Catechism	8	9	10 6:30 PM Bible Study	11	12	13 2:00 PM Mother Daughter Banquet
14 8:30 AM Service Sunday School Recognition Day with Reception	15	16	17	18 7:00 PM Ascension of Our Lord Service	19	20
21 8:30 AM Service Youth Confirmation	22	23	24 6:30 PM Bible Study	25	26	27
28 8:30 AM Service	29 Memorial Day	30	31 6:30 PM Bible Study			

2023

FYI - Church Council will meet on Tuesday, June 6 - then every 2 months unless needed.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Michigan Branch warehouse address: 126 Main St. Sebewaing, MI 48759

Warehouse Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to Noon

Dave Reed - Branch Manager (989) 600-2264

Email: pastordavereed@gmail.com

Here is a list of the Orphan Grain Train Shipments in the four years since it started.

2/18/2019		Ohio	H.A.R.P. Helping Appalachian Rural People
11/20/2019	OGT 1959	Kyrgyzstan	Social Charity Fund “Compassion”, Bishkek
10/26/2054	OGT 2054	Panama	Casa de Refugio (House of Refuge) Puerto Caimito, La Chorrera
5/13/2021	OGT 2121	Moldova	Bible Mission International, Chisinau
9/29/2021	OGT 2162	Georgia	Women for Justice, Tbilisi
3/22/2022		Ukraine	<i>Refugee Assistance</i>
4/28/2022	OGT 2210	Lithuania	Jurbarkas Evangelical Lutheran Diaconia, Smalininkai
8/15/2022	OGT 2249	Georgia	Int’l Charity Fund Peace, Senaki, Georgia (Turpa Gugunava)
11/21/2022	OGT 2291	Lithuania	Rev. Valdas Miliauskas, Director of Psichotery Rehabilitation Center Gabrielius in Vyziai, Lithuania; a rehabilitation center for the addicted. He also oversees 5 parishes and works/travels into Ukraine.

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May 29, 2023