



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

July / August 2023

Volume 39 No. 9

For freedom Christ has set us free (Galatians 5:1)

When the apostle Paul writes this in Galatians, he's not referring to setting up a form of government or a system to run a country. He's writing to the church - the redeemed in Christ. He writes in order to encourage the Galatian congregation to stand firm in what they have been incorporated into through the saving blood of Jesus, and that is freedom from trying to justify themselves before the most holy God by their own works. The freedom he describes is the freedom from bearing their own load of sin and embracing the forgiveness of sin won on the cross. This brings freedom from guilt of what one has done or left undone and a removal of the Law's crushing accusation. It is truly a new way of life and sets us at liberty to be the people of God that we were created to be.

What it's not is a license to do whatever we want. This is how children think. You hear it on the playground in the echoes of, "So what! It's a free country. You can't tell me what to do!" Our freedom in Christ is not a freedom from God's boundaries which are there for our own good. Christians do not throw God's Law aside. Jesus Himself says it will not pass away until all is accomplished (see Matthew 5:17-18). What has been removed - what we been freed from - is the punishment and guilt of the Law which Christians cherish in the work of Christ crucified for them. What a great freedom indeed!

There is the temptation to think now anything goes, that freedom in Christ means to indulge anything that tickles my fancy. But St. Paul says, no. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh

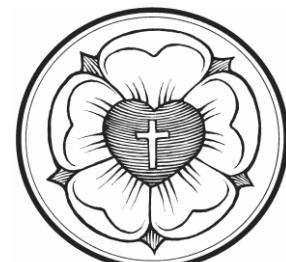
(Galatians 5:13). To submit once again to the works of the flesh is to submit once again to slavery. You are free to not have your passions (whatever tickles your fancy) rule over you and to live by the Spirit of God who will lead and direct you in the freedom that Jesus has secured for you (read Galatians 5:16-25).

We are seeing in our country what happens when no boundaries are recognized. Chaos. Anything goes. But what's thought of as freedom is actually slavery to man's base desires. The church of Christ has a message of hope. It is that Jesus sets us free from wanting to serve the self, and living in His forgiveness and by His grace we can freely serve God and our neighbor according to His good ways. A country that throws out boundaries is doomed to suffer the consequences. O Lord, save us from that.

Embrace the freedom you have from the guilt and shame of sin in Christ. It is the only way men are truly free. At the same time, freely serve your neighbor by ensuring the church and its Christians still have a voice in our country so that many more will know real freedom bought by the blood of Jesus.

Also, Happy Fourth of July!

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt



Vacation Bible School 2023

Hooked On



We had another great week at St. Paul VBS! Vacation Bible School was all about getting Hooked on Jesus! The children learned about: Noah, Jonah, The Loaves and Fishes, and The Disciples Call to be Fisher's of Men.

We made rainbow tie-dye shirts, sun catchers, baskets, and stepping stones during craft time. There were also some fun games and activities in the classrooms. The kids did great at music – I hope they share the songs with you at home and in the car! Dinners were provided by: Sunday School; Church Council; Ladies Aid; and Youth Group. There were many games of kickball, and volleyball at recess, and we ended the week with a good old-fashioned squirt gun fight!

We had a total of 51 kids and more than 25 helpers for the week. What a blessing for our little program to touch so many families. Thanks to all the parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, Godparents, friends and neighbors who brought the children to hear God's Word.

This year we chose The Juan 3:16 Project as our mission for offering. This Mission Project prints Christian Bible Story Books for children who speak Spanish. They ship books all over the world, and even recently to a church in Imlay City for migrant worker's children. Pastor Suggitt spoke to the Juan 3:16 people and found out that they were currently OUT OF BOOKS! They were so grateful that God had steered us toward their mission project.

The offering competition was fierce with Boys vs Girls. The girls swept the first two days with heavier and more \$ offering, but the boys came on strong for the final two days winning both heaviest and most \$. It came down to a tie-breaker of most \$\$ given. In the end, the boys were victorious (and there were more girls than boys at VBS this week). Final totals: Boys \$603.79 Girls \$436.76. Our tiny little church in Linkville, Michigan will be donating \$1040.55 to Juan 3:16 – that's over 200 books! Thanks be to God for your generosity!

Special thanks goes out to:

- Helen Kovach for the home-baked cookies
- Coca-Cola Company donated all the drinks for snack time
- Thrivent donated a grant for supplies
- Bad Axe Meijer donated \$250 gift card for supplies
- Sunday School, Youth Group, Church Council, Ladies Aid for providing meals and snacks
- and especially to all the helpers who came and volunteered their time and talents to finish another successful week of VBS at St Paul.

Praise the Lord!

Susan Schember, VBS Coordinator

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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 FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 10TH. We will have class that day. All children 3 years old thru 7th grade are invited to be part of our Sunday School. Coffee hour will begin again. Church at 8:30. Coffee Hour immediately after church. Sunday School 9:45am-10:30am. If you'd like to help or teach, please let me know!

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



The regular monthly meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, May 7, 2023, immediately following our worship service. Ten members answered roll call. A devotional was read from the *Portals of Prayer* – through faith alone we stand righteous before God.

The Mission Statement for the Ladies Aid was recited by all members as a reminder of our purpose – to assist the spiritual advancement of the church work here at St. Paul.

Old Business:

Discussion was held concerning the 2023 congregational bazaar.

1. Bev Wise has a noodle maker that she will donate if we decide we would like to make noodles to sell at the bazaar. Several ladies voiced their opinions and we decided not to make them.
2. Canned goods for the bazaar – we pretty much depleted our supply of canning jars last year. We will publicize the need for jars in the bulletin and newsletter in hopes of getting jars donated.
3. Inquiry was made about purchasing a new refrigerator as the one we have is getting old and needs service more often. It was decided to wait until the old one stops working.
4. Several ladies have been working on grave blankets for the bazaar. Thank you notes will be sent to Josh Sprague & Brad Polega for donating the wood for the blankets.

New Business:

- A. VBS Superintendent asked if the Ladies Aid would furnish supper one night during Vacation Bible School. After some discussion we agreed to make Breakfast for Dinner on Wednesday, June 28th. The menu consists of Pancakes & syrup, sausage links, fresh fruit cups, Chocolate & White milk, Apple juice.

1. Ruth Fluegge will purchase the pancake mix & syrup; Sandy will contact Terry Gettel to purchase the sausage links; Ruth Kumaus will furnish the fresh fruit; Sandy Salcido will get the milk and juice.

2. The following ladies volunteered to cook and serve the meal: Joyce Metzger, Janet Truemner, Ruth Kumaus, Shirley Fritz, Wendy Tabar, and Diane Wildman.

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



PUMPKIN PATCH PLAN

The pumpkins are growing nicely. Mr. Parrish also planted some sweet corn, red beets, and radishes out there! Reibling, Swartzendruber, Mandich, Gunsell, and Sember have taken their turns weeding. Please check the schedule to see when your family is on. The more weeds we keep out, the more and bigger pumpkins we will get!

This is a big fundraiser for Sunday School and Youth Group. Thanks for doing your part!

We will pick pumpkins on Saturday, September 30th at 4:00 p.m.



2023 Congregational Bazaar

**October 14, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

The church bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th. What will you and your family do to help make it a success? We need lots of crafts, canned goods (jams, jellies, peaches, pears, beets, pickles, sauces, relishes, sauerkraut, applesauce, etc), extra produce, lots of baked goods (pies, cookies, tarts, breads, specialty treats, etc). Let's get everyone involved!

We are in desperate need of canning jars: Ball, Kerr or Mason jars in half pint, pint, quart sizes – regular and wide mouth. Please donate any you can spare. ** We collected over 10 dozen jars during VBS, but we still need lots more, especially ½ pint jelly jars.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 8th immediately after church - **HORSERADISH PEELING AND PROCESSING DAY!!!** There will be light snacks and coffee/juice, then Sunday School will have class for the little kids, but the bigger kids will be helping the adults peel! Then we will plan for **BAZAAR SETUP** that afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Everyone will be invited to come help move tables, shelves, supplies, etc. There will be a bonfire with hotdogs and s'mores immediately after we finish!



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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 |
| Peggy Kelly 6282 Pine Street Cass City, MI 48726 (989) 872-5086 | Wilma Kovach 2700 Knotter Road Owendale, MI 48754 H (989) 678-4356 |
| 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 September issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" is Sunday, August 20, 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.

IN HIS SERVICE

Elders

July 2 – Ken Haley & Joe Salcido
July 9 – Josh Sprague & Matt Reibling
July 16 – Ron Tabar & Marc Reinhardt
July 23 – Joe Salcido & Robert Haag
July 30 – Ken Haley & Matt Reibling

Greeters

July 2 – Matt & Michelle Reibling and Family
July 9 – Terry & Chris Gettel
July 16 – Don & Peggy Parrish
July 23 – Janet Truemner & Kari Ricker
July 30 – Joe & Sandy Salcido

Acolytes

July 2 – Chase Swartzendruber
July 9 – Henry Haag
July 16 – Molly Sprague
July 23 – Walter Haag
July 30 – Kendyl Reehl

Altar Guild & Altar Flowers

Melissa Deming 553-1304
Shirley Fritz 453-2987

Tithe Counters

July 9 – Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker
July 30 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel

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Elders

August 6 – Josh Sprague & Matt Reibling
August 13 – Joe Salcido & Marc Reinhardt
August 20 – Ron Tabar & Robert Haag
August 27 – Joe Salcido & Ken Haley

Greeters

August 6 – Jeremy & Melissa Deming and Sons
August 13 – Ron & Diane Dubs
August 20 – Chad & Jen Timmons
August 27 – Warren & Jan Stoeckle

Acolytes

August 6 – Owen Reibling
August 13 – Chase Swartzendruber
August 20 – Henry Haag
August 27 – Molly Sprague

Tithe Counters

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

Altar Guild & Altar Flowers

Faye Errer 678-4105
Wendy Tabar 977-1537



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



July 2 - Ron & Diana Dubs

5 - Matt & Michelle Reibling

10 - Derrick & Paula Holland

13 - Jim & Kris Gilbert

31 - Shawn & Laura Swartzendruber



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

LIFE QUOTE

We may think our prayers are small in relation to the magnitude of the problem of abortion. Not so! ... Educate yourself, your children, and the people you know ... Support leaders who embrace these words, 'All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness' ... We have the most hopeful message the world has ever heard. You know it. God does big things with small stuff. How can we be so sure? Shiphrah and Puah, Jochebed, Miriam, and Moses ... and especially Jesus. Amen.

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
lutheransforlife.org

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Thumb Zone – 2023 Retreat

The Next 80 Years!

Saturday, August 26, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Huron County Expo Center at Fairgrounds

Cost - \$20.00

Registration Deadline is August 20th.

Check out the flyer on the bulletin board for more information. Registration forms are available in the church office.



Perhaps it's time to acknowledge all the good I see at St. Paul. If you haven't noticed it seems as though the 'Elder Elder' has been, let's say, critical of the faults that keep us from attending

services. As a constant naysayer I've been maybe too busy pointing out our many faults. If truth be told, we as a church should be thankful for all that we have and do. The praise should always be to God first for He has blessed this congregation with many dedicated ambassadors for Jesus.

Not a lot of churches have so many active members. These members and their groups are responsible for the many undertakings of this church. We have the support of our Ladies Aid Society. They do unselfish work and give financial support to this church and its congregation as well as other worthy causes. They usually spearhead any fund-raising projects and then graciously give in support of the church and many mission projects. If you look around, they are responsible for much of our comfort and beauty in the church itself.

Our Sunday School and VBS are second to none. They too seek projects to serve others in surrounding communities. Our Youth Group supports and provides gift baskets as well as financial aid. They are a busy bunch of young Christians as they imitate the caring of Jesus. We have also weekly acolytes who light and extinguish the altar candles each week as they learn to serve God and this church.

We have been truly blessed for decades with one of the finest organists around. The music is often augmented by vocal selections from our Choir. And, how about the great job our children do with the bells? The church doesn't just get beautiful every week or occasion by itself. The Altar Guild changes the décor on the altar as needed, then keep the candles ready and the chandeliers and purificator cloths clean as well as hanging the banners that symbolize each season of the church year. The Altar Flower Committee also provides fresh flowers each week. Our Greeters welcome members and guests to St. Paul each Sunday morning. Several members even regularly send cards of support as well as celebration to our members.

When one of our members is called home to Jesus, we have a large contingency ready, willing, and able to put on a great meal for the bereaved family. We also have a dedicated member who folds the funeral pall and has it

ready at the altar for the casket. In the same light, we have a Cemetery Committee for congregational needs.

Several ladies have designed and made most of the banners you see every week in church. They have been doing this as long as I can remember. One lady has provided individual 'Child of God' banners for every child's baptism for nearly 40 years. Let's not forget the families who do the Advent and Christmas decorating. They have done it as a family event for countless years. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the countless hours of dedication to duty that our church secretary performs. She coordinates with Pastor and the various groups within the church.

We have a wonderful facility for our congregational gatherings. The Fellowship Hall Committee sets up guidelines and approves all hall-related events for our members. Oh, and did I mention the biggest event every year – the St. Paul Congregational Bazaar? Yes, the congregation gets together every fall for the best bazaar in the area. Every age group gets involved.

The Church Council consists of our President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Trustees and the Elders. Recently the Council brought back the annual Pork Dinner to raise money for our Special Needs Fund. This Council meets regularly to provide guidance and leadership for the day-to-day operations of the church. The Trustees keep our church up and running. They provide the essential documents needed to insure and maintain the church including lawn care and snow removal as well as janitorial services – all the brick and mortar. Our dedicated Treasurer continues to keep our finances in order. We have volunteers who count our weekly tithes. Then there are your Church Elders who regularly meet with Pastor, and then the Council. Our job is the more spiritual side of running the church by coordinating with Pastor, and when needed, other entities.

A lot of what we do has been learned by the fine example of our 'Senior Membership' and is the reason St. Paul has such a solid foundation. We are doubly blessed to have our own 'In House Pastor Emeritus'. If all goes well, it allows our Pastor to do what he was called to do – Preach the Word of God and tell the Good News.

Sincerely Joe Salcido,

The Elder Elder

July

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

2023

August

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

2023

St. Paul's "Epistles"



*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755*



Trust in
the Lord
with all
thine heart;
and lean not
unto thine own
understanding.

Proverbs 3:5