



*St. Paul's*

# *"Epistles"*

*September 2023*

*Volume 39 No. 10*



The Cheeseburger Festival in Caseville is well known even outside our state. When I received the call at seminary to move my family from Fort Wayne, IN, and serve St. Paul and Good Shepherd, a professor (not from Michigan) made it a point to come and tell me that Cheeseburger occurred there annually and he would like to come and check it out. I had no idea what he was talking about so he described what he knew about it and then we parted ways. I didn't think too much about it afterwards because, obviously, my head was swimming about where God was sending us and the excitement and fear of serving Jesus in His church consumed my thoughts.

Having lived here now for over eight years, I understand why that professor brought up Cheeseburger. It's an enormous influx of people into the tiny town of Caseville and in the middle of the ten-day event they boast one of the biggest parades around. I've seen it take an hour and half for all the participants to make their way through downtown Caseville. Most of it has businesses promoting themselves while having fun in Cheeseburger gear adorned with flamingo trimmings. Some of it can get a little over the top and the wise parent may have to shield young eyes. But one thing is for sure: people turn out in droves to witness the parade. Thousands upon thousands line the street in Caseville to watch, gather candy and beads, and shout for the floats they like best.

I never thought I would be in that parade, but as it turns out this year was my second year in a row. Last year I had the opportunity to walk with the Huron County Right To Life and this year it was the same. Several brave souls who encouraged each other found confidence to walk the gauntlet. We joined together to spread the message of the value of God given life in the womb to thousands. This is an intimidating task and venue but the message is worth it. Some boo or hiss. Some give back the bookmarks with God's truth of life on it. Some decline the simple pen or pencil with the message that even the smallest are loved by our Lord. Some deny the golden pin of the feet of a ten-week-old child. But some don't! Many don't! I heard cheers as our van with banners on either side saying, "Pro-woman, Pro-Child, Love Them Both" approached. Many accepted the handouts and the balloons which said, "Smile! Your mom chose life!" This gave us encouragement. Encouragement that we were not alone in standing up for life. Sometimes what other people need to see is that you need not be afraid to speak the truth and our voice gets louder together. It's a voice that speaks for the voiceless and seeks to defend those who need someone to do it for them. Someone yelled from the crowd, "Keep politics out of the parade!" Standing up for children isn't politics, it's a confession that any decent society needs because it's matter of life and death for children. If we can't see that this isn't arbitrary politics but a necessity of any well-functioning group of people then we are blind.

I led our small group in prayer before the parade started. We prayed that the Author of life, Jesus, would give us wisdom and courage to speak His truth. We prayed that He would soften hard hearts to see that all life is precious. We prayed that others would be encouraged to join in defending life.

May our Lord answer our prayers even in the midst of a Cheeseburger parade. He who is faithful will do it.

In Christ,  
Pastor Suggitt



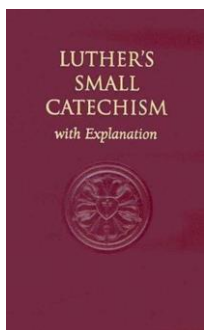
### **Youth Catechesis/Confirmation**

There will be a meeting for parents of children going into sixth grade and those students who are in their second year of class. You will meet with Pastor Suggitt on Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul to receive information on the schedule for the year. Train your children in the way they should go!

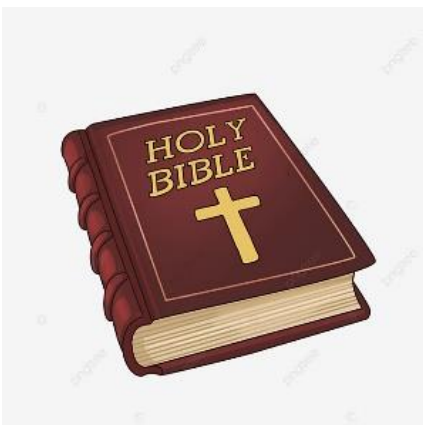
May God richly bless our families.

### **Christian Teaching/Adult Instruction for Membership**

On September 24, we will begin a class for those who are interested in the fundamentals of Christian teaching and life and for those who desire learning leading to membership in our church.



This class will meet each Sunday from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for approximately 12 weeks. The class is open to everyone even if you are already a member. If you have a Small Catechism and Bible, bring them. If not, we will provide them for you.



### **A Note About Thrivent Financial**

Thrivent Financial has had a history with Lutherans for many years. It began as Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) and then merged with Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) to form Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Over time, apparently for marketing purposes, they discontinued proclaiming the “For Lutherans” part of their name and are now commonly known as simply Thrivent. Their website offers some insight stating, “Thrivent is evolving into a more diversified, holistic financial services organization.”

They had gained a special audience with us in the beginning because they were for Lutherans and even after that for simply being Christian. But over that past few years we have watched the t-shirts they give out lose the name Lutheran and eventually lose the Christian cross in the middle of the heart (which was an echo of Luther’s Rose seal). This is because they have become a financial institution which resembles any other worldly financial institution. The situation became publicly clear this past June when they posted on their Instagram account support for the so called LBGTQ+ pride month with “Celebrate Pride Month” while still having on their website the name Lutheran and Christian. Support for such pride is neither Lutheran nor Christian. Endorsement of what God in His Word declares harmful is contrary to Christian confession, morality, and virtue. Thrivent’s actions are a betrayal of their account holders and many of their employees who believed that they were investing in and working for a faithful, Christian company.

The elders and council have met concerning this and discussion was held at the congregational meeting in July. Pastors of the Thumb East and West Circuits have also met in discussion. Thrivent once had our special attention but now has moved away from what they once were. We are acknowledging that. The church funds we once had invested at Thrivent will now be moved to Church Extension Fund - a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Michigan District organization. We will no longer promote or endorse Thrivent by handing out their t-shirts or displaying their magazine or other merchandise just as we would not do for any other common organization. If Thrivent is indeed a Christian company, then a call for their repentance is in order. We pray for that.

# Why Don't We...?

As an elder I'm often given suggestions on how we can increase church attendance. I get a lot of "Why don't we?..." Most of the time I have an answer. Sometimes I'm not sure. But all of the time it's to encourage better attendance.

Our St. Paul has been here for almost 130 years so we must be doing something right.

Many years ago, some of you may remember when I brought several 'troubled' youths from Teen Ranch near Kingston to attend our Sunday service. In a later conversation with several of these young delinquents I was told how refreshing it was to go to a church where they felt so moved by the service. When I asked them about it, they all were struck by how reverent and structured the service was. They felt like God was right there with them. These youth had attended countless other churches with a variety of services so I was elated that they were so moved.

Churches have been trying new methods of services. They have used all types of technology including big screens and musicians, bands, mini rock concerts, free coffee and WiFi, pastors in jeans and a tee-shirt. Almost anything to attract interest and attendance.

Some have modified their acceptance of "It's OK to be..." – all in the search for increased attendance.

It has even crept into the LCMS as well.

I recently attended an LCMS church while visiting a relative across the state. I saw the coffee, tea and water available to take into church; I watched the lay persons participating in the readings. I heard from a laid-back pastor who tried to make everyone relax and enjoy the sermon. Even a baptism that was somewhat casual. You see they are in a town with numerous 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Free,

Pentecostal, Reformed and non-denominational churches. They clearly were trying to adapt and compete.

I was so glad when I got back and attended church here at St. Paul, Linkville. It was like the Teen Ranch youth had said, "It was like God was with us" because He is.

Yes, St. Paul, Linkville – No Gimmicks, No Frills – just hearing the Word of God and receiving His sacraments. Maybe that's the answer to the question – Why Don't We...?

Yours in Christ,

Joe Salcido – The elder Elder



On August 8, 2023, Fern Deann Dubs, at the age of 80, fell asleep in Jesus. Fern was given Christian burial from St. Paul on Friday, August 11, 2023.

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 Fern.

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Lee "Shiney" Truemner passed away Sunday, August 20, 2023 at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw. Lee was given Christian burial on Friday, August 25, 2023.

Please keep Janet as well as family and friends in your prayers for peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in their hearts.



A special meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was held immediately after church on Sunday, July 23, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President, Ruth Fluegge. Nine members answered roll call.

Minutes of the May 7, 2023, meeting were read by our secretary; approved. Several thank you cards were read – Rev. Joshua Error; Chase Swartzendruber & the Vida Fluegge family. Ladies Aid Treasurer, Ruth Kumaus, reported that we have \$18,700 in checking and \$18,699 in savings.

Several items were discussed:

1. Our request for a donation from Michigan Sugar Company has been approved. Volunteers were requested to pick up the sugar in Bay City. Ruth Kumaus volunteered to handle pick-up.
2. Discussion was held concerning Thrivent grants. We voted by paper ballot to no longer utilize these funds. The bazaar will proceed the same as in previous years but without Thrivent's aid. Any expenses incurred will be re-imbursed through the Ladies Aid treasury.
3. We will select the organizations that we will donate to at the September meeting. Everyone should think about where we can do the most good and let your ideas be known then.
4. More work needs to be done on the grave blankets that will be sold at the bazaar. The workers will discuss it and choose a time and date to finish this project.

5. Discussion was held on production of frozen Take & Bakes – lasagna, macaroni & cheese and chicken pot pies – to sell at the bazaar. We will do them again. A schedule will be provided to those wanting to help.

A motion was made by Joyce Metzger; supported by Margaret Timmons to adjourn the meeting; carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Salcido, Ladies Aid Secretary



On July 2, 2023 we were blessed to welcome into the family of faith at St. Paul by the washing and renewal of Holy Baptism Callie Rose Ricker, infant daughter of Derek & Emily Ricker. Serving as sponsors for Callie are Andrew & Samantha Schinnerer and Brenden & Jordyn Ricker.

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

Please keep this child in your prayers as they live their lives together in Jesus.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL / YOUTH GROUP INFORMATION

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK! Rally Day is Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.** Teachers will be installed and classes announced that day. We will have donuts and beverages in the fellowship hall after service. **CLASS WILL BEGIN THAT DAY.**

St. Paul offers Sunday school to all children 3 years old thru 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Church service is 8:30 a.m. with coffee hour and Sunday school immediately following service.

Children enrolled in Catechism are expected to attend church and Sunday school on a regular basis. If you have a 3-year-old and/or a child who requires one-on-one attention, please plan to have an adult stay for class to help maintain a comfortable learning environment.

The Coffee Hour sign-up sheet will be posted on the table under the bulletin board. Please pick a date or two and volunteer to bring snacks for the children, teachers, parents, and others who stay for Coffee hour.

The children are encouraged to bring an offering each week for Sunday School. The monies are used to help pay for crafts, classroom materials, and special events. This is a great way to teach your children about Christian Giving.

If the pumpkin patch survives the wet weather, we are scheduled to pick pumpkins on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Pray that the good Lord will bless us with a bumper crop! If the weather cooperates that day, we will have a bonfire with hotdogs, s'mores, and cider. Please plan to attend.

On Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> we will be peeling and processing horseradish for the bazaar. Coffee hour snacks will be available after church. Then, children in preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> grade will go to class. 5<sup>th</sup>

grade and older will help with horseradish. All congregation members are encouraged to come and help. Soup lunch will be provided to all volunteers. As always, we will need the youth to help with the bazaar! We will need bakers for the cookie walk. We will need lots of strong bodies for set-up day on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. And we will need lots of help at the bazaar on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Cookie Walk is one of our biggest Sunday School fundraisers. This year I'm asking all Sunday school families and teachers to bake at least 6 dozen cookies. The more you make, the more we sell! Faye Error has volunteered to make cut-outs for us, but if you'd like to make decorated cut-out cookies, you are more than welcome to! There will be a sign-up sheet so we know what you're baking.

Youth group will begin again very soon. I would love to have lots of young people join us this year! Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade through college are invited to join, and friends are always welcome regardless of whether they attend our church or not. We have fun activities and outings, we do a lot of community service in our church and in our area, we support local families and community outreach programs. Parents and grandparents, please encourage your kids to participate often.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Schember, Youth Director

586 246-4567

[bssandsks@yahoo.com](mailto:bssandsks@yahoo.com)



# THE BAZAAR IS COMING! THE BAZAAR IS COMING!

Hope you've been growing, canning, crafting, prepping, and baking for the bazaar. It's just around the corner! There will be lots of sign-up sheets posted in the next few weeks.

Here are a few dates to put on your calendar:

- **Horseradish peeling and processing**  
October 8<sup>th</sup> right after church (lunch will be provided)
- **Set-up Day**  
October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
- **Luncheon prep days**  
October 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (contact Susan Schember if you are able to help)
- **Drop-off and final setup**  
Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Don't forget to clean out your garage, basement, closets, etc.... We can use your good stuff for the White Elephant Sale. Please bring your CLEAN, GENTLY USED items to the basement as soon as possible.

If you are able to help organize and display this area, please talk with Dick and Lucille Welchner to get more direction. We will need help setting up their tables on October 8<sup>th</sup> during set-up.

The Big Day! Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> All volunteers should be at the church by 9:00 a.m. Talk to your area leader if they need you earlier than that. The Bazaar begins at 10:00 a.m. All volunteers are asked to stay for cleanup. We are usually out of there by 3 at the latest.



## ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL BAZAAR Saturday, October 14, 2023 10:00 a.m.

**Supervisor of Logistics:** Ruth Kumaus

**Advertising:** Jan Stoeckle

**Supervisor Lunch Preparation:**

Susan Schember

**Supervisor Desserts & Drinks:**

Margaret Timmons

**Supervisor Bake Sale & Pie Station:**

Shirley Fritz & Melissa Deming



**Supervisor Cookie Walk:**

Kristen Suggitt

**Supervisor White**

**Elephant:** Lucille Welchner

**Supervisor Canned Goods  
& Produce:**

Joe Salcido

**Supervisor Cutlery &**

**Crafts:** Janet Truemner



**Does anyone have extra tomatoes that we can can up for the bazaar?**

**We will also need pie or sauce apples. If you happen to have plums we'd like to be able to can those too.**



**Contact Sandy Salcido @**

**989-444-9751 if you have any of these produce items. THANK YOU!**






On July 16, 2023 we were blessed to welcome into the family of faith at St. Paul by the washing and renewal of Holy Baptism Miles Jameson Carlisle, infant son of Jamie and Shelby Carlisle. Serving as sponsors for Miles are Nick & Stephanie Steinman and Jaylee Chandonnet.

Miles is the grandson of Tonya Parrish and Shawn & Vickie Parrish. He's the great grandson of Don and Peggy Parrish.

Please keep this child in your prayers as they live their lives in Jesus.



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	



The deadline for the October issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" will be Sunday, September 22, 2023.

You can mail your article to Sandy at [salcido.sandy8@gmail.com](mailto:salcido.sandy8@gmail.com) or place them in the newsletter mailbox at the top of the stairs.

Don't forget those "Hats Off" items.

**Issues, Etc.**



Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio  
[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

Want to listen to good theology concerning current topics, the Bible, and Christ crucified for you? Check out *Issues, Etc.* on your computer or smartphone.



September 2 - Ethan Wissner

3 - Van Fritz

5 - Brenda Kady

6 - Dorothy Rathje

7 - Brennan Wissner

8 - Bryce Sears

11 - Avah Kady

12 - Alan Gettel

Corbin Sparkes

16 - Jeffrey Dyer

17 - Dedra Sherman

18 - Sadie Swartzendruber

Jaxson Shepard

19 - Karen Gaeth

Molly Sprague

21 - Kaitlyn Reinhardt

Kari Ricker

23 - Joshua Leinweber

Cayden Metzger

24 - Janet Truemner

25 - Bailey Krzeszewski

26 - Macy Reinhardt

Raymond Fritz

28 - James Gilbert

30 - James Albrecht

Ava Dubs

Alexis Gilbert

## Happy Anniversary

Sept. 4 - Dan & Susan Dubs

5 - Ron & Laura Dubs

11 - Ron & Wendy Tabar

12 - Norbert & Liz Reehl

16 - Ken & Cathy Haley

19 - Craig & Tina Sears

20 - Jeramy & Melissa Deming

22 - Jeff & Deb Leinweber

25 - Brian & Susan Schember

27 - Richard & Elaine Renn

## IN HIS SERVICE

### Elders

Sept. 3 - Josh Sprague & Matt Reibling

Sept. 10 - Joe Salcido & Ken Haley

Sept. 17 - Ron Tabar & Marc Reinhardt

Sept. 24 - Josh Sprague & Robert Haag

### Greeters

Sept. 3 - Harold & Marge Weisenbach

Sept. 10 - Annette Prich

Sept. 17 - Rich & Ruth Fluegge

Sept. 24 - Brian & Susan Schember

### Acolytes

Sept. 3 - Walter Haag

Sept. 10 - Kendyl Reehl

Sept. 17 - Owen Reibling

Sept. 24 - Chase Swartzendruber

### Tithe Counters

Sept. 10 - Patti Reinhardt & Kim Krohn

Sept. 24 - Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel

### Sept. Altar Guild & Altar Flowers

Ruth Fluegge 989 598-2453

Paula Holland 989 598-4156

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

**Pastor: Rev. Christopher Suggitt**

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

Church Email: [lvlpaul40@gmail.com](mailto:lvlpaul40@gmail.com)

Secretary's Email: [salcido.sandy8@gmail.com](mailto:salcido.sandy8@gmail.com)

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Youth Catechism: 1:30 p.m.

Adult Catechesis: 3:30 p.m.

# September

<i>un</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 8:30 AM Service	4	5  6:30 PM Bible Study	6	7	8	9
10 8:30 AM Service  9:30 AM SS Rally Day Ladies Aid Mtg.  2:00 PM Catechism Mtg.	11  6:00 PM Choir	12  6:30 PM Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17 8:30 AM Service  9:30 AM SS/Coffee Hr.  1:30 PM Catechism	18  6:00 PM Choir	19  6:30 PM Bible Study	20	21	22	23
24 8:30 AM Service  9:30 AM SS/Coffee Hr.  1:30 PM Catechism  3:00 PM Adult Catechesis Mtg.	25  6:00 PM Choir	26  6:30 PM Bible Study	27	28	29	30

# 2023

# *St. Paul's "Epistles"*



*St. Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.  
Pigeon, MI 48755*



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matthew 19:14

**Sunday School Rally Day  
Sunday, September 10, 2023**