



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

March 2024

Volume 40 No. 5

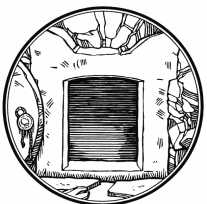
Easter Bunny or Empty Tomb?

It seems as if there is no shortage on things to celebrate. The stores and online ads will remind you in case you forget. You can celebrate the changing of the seasons, moving into a new house, or getting a dog. It helps them sell stuff. I get it.

But what you will most likely not see too much celebrating over is the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. Yes, many stores and people will call it Easter but it will remain void of that Man who died for our sins and rose from that death alive. A Spring celebration is probably a more politically correct way for it to be marketed which at least is honest in what (or what is not) being lauded. The celebration of Easter should carry certain baggage with it - a joyful celebration that Jesus has defeated death and the grave for us and that all who believe in Him shall rise out of the grave alive with Him forever. But to celebrate this fact, one must also believe that they have sins for which Jesus had to die. It is to admit my sins and confess that Good Friday - the day we observe our Lord's crucifixion - is also a day that must take place for me. This is where the rubber meets the road and is likely why many are good with just the thought of Easter or the Spring celebration but don't want to delve too far into all that surrounds the Christian Easter.



So, enter the Easter Bunny. He's fun. He keeps real things safely at a distance. He won't mention to you that you had to be bought back from the grave by Jesus' shed blood and resurrection. He can't suggest that you might actually have sin that must be atoned for or else he might get canceled. He must not point to the empty tomb of Jesus and say, "Death, where is your victory, where is your sting?" because that would imply, I actually need that Man, Jesus, to do what I cannot do which would be harmful to my ego. Which is why he's trapped being more of a bunny and not so much Easter and it's safe to celebrate bunnies. They're soft and cute and apparently either lay eggs or carry a bunch around with them. Either way, the Bunny will most likely be there to greet you at Walmart or Meijer as long as he behaves and sticks to promoting candy, tulips, and warm weather. Sure, he might be allowed to be near a little "He is risen" sign as long as Mr. Bunny stays in his lane and doesn't elaborate on who the "He" refers to on the sign if he wants to keep his job.



But on Easter the Christian Church will shout with all its heart "Christ is risen!" We will sing, *Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, for our offenses given; but now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from heaven (LSB 458)*. We will celebrate the fact that we have sins that Jesus died for but He rose from that death to give us new life. He has turned our season of darkness into the Spring of life eternal. This is the true celebration which we cannot be silent about! We will gather in joyful awe and receive from the altar the sweet Victor, Christ, the first fruits from the dead, which puts any Cadbury Creme Egg to shame.

So go ahead and color some eggs if you choose and get some candy. We have the real celebration of Easter anchored in our Lord rising from the dead and if you want to sprinkle that with chocolate and a little fun, great. It is a festival, after all. We will let the risen Christ be the main actor and let all other things stay in their lane.

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt

Holy Week Services

Holy (Maundy) Thursday 3/28

Good Shepherd, Caseville - 5:30pm

St. Paul, Linkville - 7pm

Good Friday 3/29

Good Shepherd, Caseville - 1pm

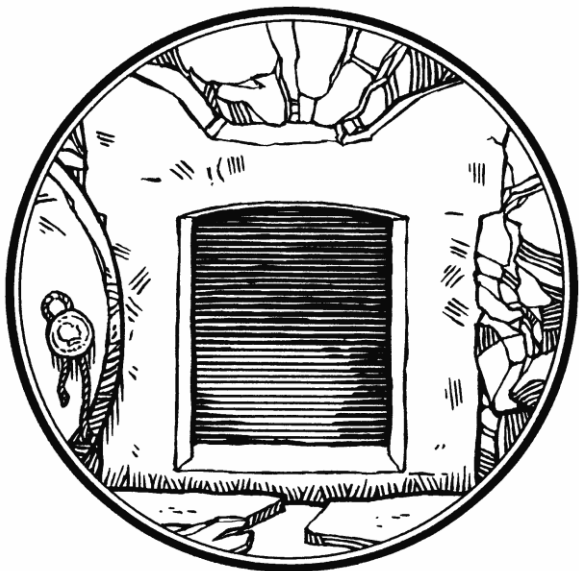
Chief Service

St. Paul, Linkville - 7pm

Tenebrae Service



The Resurrection of Our Lord



Easter Vigil 3/30

Grace Lutheran Church Fairgrove - 7pm

Easter Sunrise 3/31

St. Paul, Linkville - 6:30am

Easter Festival Service 3/31

St. Paul, Linkville - 8:30am

Good Shepherd, Caseville - 10:30am

LIFE QUOTE

The state can punish offenders, but it can't give birth to law-abiding citizens. The state cannot love or nurture a child. It takes a family. A radical thought, that, but off limits in our public conversations swept clean of moral discourse. Pray that this will change. *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

HE KNEW

What's it like to know? What's it like to know the actual days you have left to live. I've often joked 'I only need the 20-year warranty' when making a major purchase. More recently I've quipped 'I'm on the 18-year plan'. I can't imagine how I would feel if I knew the exact day I will die. Can you?

As this issue of the Epistles reaches you it is already into the Lenten season. It is a solemn time for reflection. I can only imagine how Jesus was feeling. After all, 'He knew'.

- He already knew what was going to happen to Him – soon. He knew how painful it would be.
- He knew how His close friend would give Him up to authorities.
- He knew His disciples would scatter in fear for themselves.
- He knew who would deny even knowing Him.
- He knew how unfairly He would be judged. He knew what His sentence would be.
- He knew how He would be spat upon and scourged. He knew what it would feel to have a crown of thorns pushed down on His head. He felt the shame of being stripped down and humiliated.
- He knew how heavy that cross would be to bear. He knew just how many steps He had to take to carry His own cross to the place called “The Skull” before He was nailed to it.
- He knew and could feel the anguish of His mother's tears.
- He knew just how long He would hang on that hill.
- He surely knew when He would take in His last breath.



Yet before His did, He forgave all involved saying “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they've done.” He even told a man hanging next to Him “On this day you will be with Me in heaven”.

He knew He would ask His Father “Why have You forsaken Me?” He knew He would say “Father I surrender my Spirit into Your hands” – that it would be His last breath.

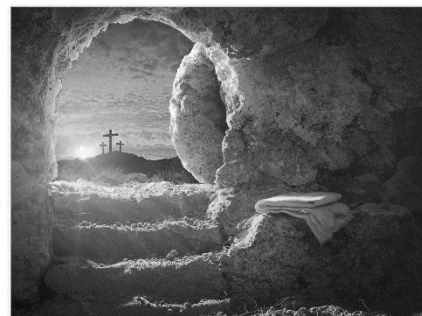
Why would He go through all that when HE KNEW how bad it was going to be? Because like His Father, He also loves us.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son” that whoever believes in His shall not perish but have eternal life”.

He is not here, for He is Risen!

Alleluia!

The Elder Elder, Joe Salcido





The monthly meeting of St. Paul's Ladies Aid was held on Sunday, February 4, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge. A devotion

was read by the secretary. It was from *Portals of Prayer* entitled "The Promise" – Genesis 3:15. 'The Father promised a Son—and the Son was present at the promise—a Son who would defeat the devil one day'.

Twelve ladies answered roll call. Amy Haag spoke to the ladies concerning future congregational dinners, etc. Amy and Michelle Reibling have decided to spearhead a dinner (no Pork Dinner in 2024) or other function to be decided at a later time. We thanked her for stepping up to the plate.

Old Business:

1. The following budget items were discussed and voted upon:
 - a. \$2000 donation to Josh Error for his continued education – Janet Truemner made a motion to continue to help Josh & his family; supported by Joyce Metzger; carried
 - b. \$1,000 donation to 'a person in need' Joan Taylor from Good Shepherd, Caseville – Motion made by Joyce Metzger; supported by Margaret Timmons; carried.
 - c. \$1,000 each donation to Sunday School and Youth Group - Wendy Tabar made the motion to support both groups; supported by Wanda Dubs; carried.
 - d. Half the expense of replacing the carpet for adjoining rooms to the church proper on the north end of the building (excluding the fellowship hall) up to \$8,000. Motion made by Jyl Shope; supported by Kris Gilbert; carried.
2. Members have been asked if we were planning to make cheeseballs for Easter. Kris

Gilbert said that her employer would take 70 each for his two locations. After discussion we decided to go ahead with the project. Sandy will get pricing for necessary ingredients and figure out what we will need to charge. Order forms will be handed out as soon as we know the price. We will make the cheeseballs on Saturday, March 16th with pick-up that day or Sunday, March 17th after church.

New Business:

1. Ladies Aid members will furnish the Lenten supper on Wednesday, February 28th. The following ladies volunteered to furnish food items.
 - a. Casseroles – Janet Truemner, Wendy Tabar, Sandy Salcido
 - b. Salad & Dressings – Ruth Fluegge
 - c. Rolls & Butter – Jyl Shope
 - d. Beverages – Joyce Metzger, Ruth Kumaus
 - e. Desserts – Shirley Fritz, Margaret Timmons, Kris Gilbert
2. The Congregational Bazaar date has been set for Saturday, October 12th, 2024.
3. Vacation Bible School is June 24 – 27. We have been asked to furnish supper for one of the nights. We chose Wednesday, June 27th.
 1. We discussed making casseroles, pot pies, etc. to keep in the freezer to take to members who are ill. Whoever makes an entrée should label it with contents & instructions and put it in the freezer for future use.
 2. Pam Nowaczyk asked if we would be interested in any of the coffee carafes she no longer uses. It was decided we're OK with what we have.
 3. We need to find another source to make the praying hands for the confirmands. The shop where we got them previously is closed.

We closed the meeting with the singing of the doxology and saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Salcido, Secretary

Sunday School & Youth Group

We are officially in the Lenten season. Hopefully you will attend Lenten services and dinners with your family; Read your daily Lenten devotionals with your kids; Bring them to church and Sunday school and youth group to strengthen and renew their faith and yours.

March is a very busy month for St Paul. Mark your calendars, so you don't miss out on anything!

March 3rd – Sunday school plays bells; practice songs; class and coffee hour

March 6th – Lenten Vespers at Good Shepherd

March 10th – practice songs, class and coffee hour

March 13th – Lenten Supper and Vespers at St. Paul

March 17th – practice songs, class and coffee hour

March 20th – Lenten Vespers at Good Shepherd

March 24th – Palm Sunday – Sunday school singing with choir at St. Paul and at Good Shepherd. We will have coffee and snacks, then carpool to Caseville – no SS class.

March 28th – Maundy Thursday service and Stripping of the Altar

March 29th – Good Friday at Good Shepherd and St. Paul

March 30th – Easter breakfast prep and setup for Youth Group 6pm-7pm

March 31st – Easter Sunday and breakfast – no SS class

Sunday School will be providing Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 13th at 6:00pm. Kids and parents are asked to arrive at 5:30pm to help setup, serve, and cleanup. Dinner will be chicken noodle soup, chili, bread and corn muffins, veggies and dip, desserts. Free-will offering will be taken to offset cost of family bowling in April.

Youth Group (5th grade and older) will be hosting Easter breakfast 7:15-8:15 on March 31st. We will be prepping and setting up on Saturday night at 6pm. Then we need to be back to finish up, cook, serve, and cleanup in the morning by 7am. I'd like each youth group family to provide breakfast muffins, coffee cakes, cinnamon rolls, pecan rolls, etc. Please let me know what you will bring. Free will offering will go toward VBS 2024

Busy, busy, busy!

Susan Schember, SS Superintendent and YG Leader
586 246-4567 bssandsks@yahoo.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 24-27

5:30-8PM

We're having a party—a party to celebrate the Savior—and you're invited!

Celebrate the Savior: Jesus Gives Us Joy is the theme of this VBS program. We're excited to return to the traditional VBS format, with fun crafts, engaging activities, and catchy music to share God's love with children at your church in a fun-filled week!

Of all the blessings God gives us, His Son, Jesus is the biggest reason to celebrate. Starting with Jesus' birth and concluding with His resurrection, children will learn about Jesus' unending love and forgiveness.

All children age 4yrs thru 7th grade are invited to come join the party! Tell your family, friends, and neighbors. Dinner will be provided each night. Lots of volunteers will be needed, so let me know if you can help. Older youth group kids are always needed too!

Registration forms will be available in May. Stay tuned.

Susan Schember, VBS Coordinator

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: lvspaul40@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.



May 11th Noon til 2:00 p.m.

We're celebrating Mother's Day with a Tea! Wear your favorite "dress up" clothes and a fancy hat. Join us for tea, lunch, and dessert. We will also be making a craft to take home. Invite your moms, grandmas, aunts, friends, neighbors, daughters, granddaughters, and nieces for a lovely day celebrating the women in our lives.



Teacups and saucers are needed! If you have any that you're willing to part with, or you happen to come across a super cheap deal at a garage sale or antique market, please bring

them to the church. We usually have about 75 women and girls in attendance, so get looking!

As a community service project, we will also be collecting non-perishable food items, cleaning products, laundry products, and hygiene products for Thumb Blessing Boxes and Pigeon Food Pantry.



<p>Don Fibranz Satchell's Christian Foster Care Home 2662 E. Caro Road Caro, MI 48723</p>	<p>Peggy Kelly 6282 Pine Street Cass City, MI 48726 (989) 872-5086</p>
<p>Wilma Kovach 2700 Knotter Road Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 678-4356</p>	<p>Beverly Liedke 203 N. Caseville Road Apt. 203 Pigeon, MI 48755 (989) 453-3637</p>
<p>Bonnie Nowaczyk 7305 Main Street Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 553-4286 or (989) 678-4286</p>	<p>Dennis & Linda Schweitzer 2875 Shebeon Road Sebewaing, MI 48759 (989) 883-9197</p>
<p>Jeannine Ziehm c/o Jennifer Scott 5318 Indian Trail Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p>	

NewsLetter
DEADLine

Articles for the April issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" are due Sunday, March 24th.

Please place your articles in the "Epistles" mailbox at the church or email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com.

Don't forget those "Hats Off" item

WE'RE MAKING CHEESEBALLS!



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
SAME GREAT PRICE - \$7.00**

**CHEESEBALLS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR
EASTER.**

St. Paul Ladies Aid is currently taking orders for cheeseballs. There is an order form on the table in the narthex if you would like to order.

Order forms are available today for Ladies Aid members to take orders. Pick them up on the table in the narthex.

Deadline for orders is March 10th. We will make them on Saturday, March 16th. They will be available for pick-up that day or on Sunday, March 17th after our worship service.

Do you get your Epistles via 'SNAIL MAIL'?

Please consider receiving your newsletter either in your church mailbox or via email. Postage is a considerable expense each month.

LIFE QUOTE

The state can punish offenders, but it can't give birth to law-abiding citizens. The state cannot love or nurture a child. It takes a family. A radical thought, that, but off limits in our public conversations swept clean of moral discourse. Pray that this will change.

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



The 2024 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.

IN HIS SERVICE

Elders

3 – Joe Salcido & Matt Reibling
10 – Josh Sprague & Robert Haag
13 – 7:00 p.m. – Ken Haley
17 – Ken Haley & Ron Tabar
24 – Joe Salcido & Matt Reibling
28 – Maundy Thursday
Josh Sprague & Robert Haag
29 – 7:00 p.m. Good Friday
Ron Tabar
31 – 6:30 a.m. Sunrise
Joe Salcido & Ron Tabar
8:30 a.m. Festival
Robert Haag & Matt Reibling

Greeters

March 3 – Wendy Ewald and Boys
March 10 – Deming Family
March 17 – Rich & Ruth Fluegge
March 24 – Brian & Susan Schember
March 31 – Annette Prich

Tithe Counters

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

March Altar Guild & Altar Flowers

Diane Dubs
Annette Prich

March Snow Patrol

3 - 8:30 a.m.	Stoeckle
10 - 8:30 a.m.	Fluegge
13 - 7:00 p.m. <i>Lent</i>	Volunteer
17 - 8:30 a.m.	Timmons
24 - 8:30 a.m.	Stoeckle
28 - 7:00 p.m. <i>Holy Thurs.</i>	Fluegge
29 - 7:00 p.m. <i>Good Friday</i>	Volunteer
31 - 6:30 a.m. <i>Easter</i>	Timmons
8:30 a.m.	Timmons



March 1st – Kayla Deering

Layla Provost
Alexander Rogers
2nd – Richard Dubs
Kendyl Reehl
3rd – Doug Fritz
Lonnie Fritz
Shana Adkins
4th – Lance Deming
Scott Thies
5th – Devin Prich
7th – Taylor Engelhardt
8th – Abby Truemner
9th – Richard Renn, Jr.
10th – Ellery Fritz
Linda Schweitzer
11th – Brooks Flannery
14th – Cally Rose Ricker
Laura Swartzendruber
15th – Kristi Howard
16th – Rowan Higgins
17th – Blake & Brody Verbeek
18th – Henry Gies
Terry Gettel
19th – Bonnie Nowaczyk
Kenneth Rathje
Henry Haag
Hailey Romzek
20th – Blain Renn
Amy Haag
22nd – Ken Haley
26th – Lucille Welchner
Stacey Farmer
27th – Harper Shuboy
Ron Tabar
Valerie Fritz
28th – Adam Metzger
Kelly Haley
29th – Lisa Sprague



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

March

					1	2
3 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School Ladies Aid Mtg. 1:30 PM Catechism	4 6:00 PM Choir	5 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council	6 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service @ GS	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Catechism 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study	11 6:00 PM Choir	12	13 6:00 PM SS & YG Lenten Supper @ SP 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service @ SP	14	15	16
17 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Coffee Hour 1:30 PM Catechism 7:00 PM Young Men's Group	18 6:00 PM Choir	19	20 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service@ GS	21	22	23
24 8:30 AM Service 9:30AM Sunday School & Coffee Hour No Catechism	25 6:00 PM Choir	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday Service 5:30 PM @ GS 7:00 PM @ St. Paul	29 Good Friday 1:00 PM @ GS 7:00 PM @ St. Paul	30
31 6:30 AM Sunrise Service 7:15 – 8:15 AM Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM Festival Service						

2024

St. Paul's "Epistles"



*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755*



alleluia!
Christ has Risen!