



"Epistles"

April 2024

Volume 40

No. 6

A Threefold Cord of Christian Life

At our regular Elders meetings, we have begun working through our church's confession as found in the Augsburg Confession (AC) which is contained within the Book of Concord (our church's official doctrine concerning the teachings and beliefs of the church as they come to us from Holy Scripture).

Three parts which are found in succession of one another are: AC IV - Justification, AC V - The Ministry, and AC VI - New Obedience. These three tie together nicely the Christian life and can help us keep a firm foundation concerning our daily lives.

Justification has to do with how one is made right with the Holy God. We read:

Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By his death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in his sight (Romans 3:21-26; 4:5). AC IV

So, the Christian is counted righteous before God, forgiven of his sin, by faith which clings to the payment of Jesus on the cross on his behalf.

Yet men, by nature, know nothing of this payment by Jesus. So, God in His mercy establishes the way for us to know of Jesus and believe in Him. We read:

So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. Through the Word and Sacrament, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given [John 20:22]. He works faith, when and where it pleases God [John 3:8], in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake. This happens not through our own merits, but for Christ sake. AC V

So, one is made a Christian and sustained in the Christian faith through the preaching of God's Word and in receiving the gifts God gives through His church. While it is called The Ministry here, the Germans called it the Preaching Office. Either way, God has established the way for you to be justified before Him and has set it up that His Word goes out for you to receive and hold onto.

This hearing of the Word and receiving the gifts of God which creates justifying faith is then lived out in the life of the Christian. This is seen in the article concerning the New Obedience. We read:

Our churches teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruit [Galatians 5:22-23]. It is necessary to do good works commanded by God [Ephesians 2:10], because of God's will. We should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. The forgiveness of sins and justification is received through faith. AC VI

This is to say, one who has heard and believes the Word of God concerning the Son of God who has died for our sins and risen from the dead, now leads a new life seeking to do the things which are pleasing to God's will. Not to earn God's favor but because God's favor has been shown to him on the cross. A simple way to know God's will is to look at His commandments.

All three of these weave tougher nicely for us in an easy way. We have confident faith in Jesus' work done for us because we hear it preached and have it applied to us in His Sacraments which makes us new people who strive to live God pleasing lives. To leave one part out is to train-wreck the whole thing. Keeping it all together is like a threefold cord which is not easily broken.

Keep hearing. Believe Jesus' work. Bear fruit.
In Christ, Pastor Suggitt

So Now What?

Easter is over. The leftover deviled eggs and egg salad sandwiches are almost gone. It appears that Jesus' job has been completed. He came to earth and did all that His Father had asked of Him. He had already fulfilled much of what the prophets foretold. He modeled a perfect life for us to follow. But He was not quite done yet. There was still a 'clean up on aisle 2' to deal with.

You see, He had truly made an impact on His disciples. He had certainly performed many miracles and thus, gained a large following and notoriety. But over time could they remember all the things He had told them? Would they forget the lessons He taught them, or worse yet, would they lose faith in Him and all He spoke of?

Now He had to convince those skeptics of His resurrection. He appeared to them in the Upper Room. He showed them His wounds and they were in awe. Then He breathed on them and said "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive any one his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now, having given them the gift of the Holy Spirit, He could return to His Father, knowing that they would tell everyone the Good News. Yes, Jesus died for us for the forgiveness of sins, and He will return to give us everlasting life with Him in heaven.

So now what? Well, just like Jesus' job was not done yet, neither is ours. It's up to us to take the cue from Him and reach out to others and let them know that at St. Paul every Sunday we get to hear and share that same Good News.

The Elder Elder – Joe Salcido



The regular monthly meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by president, Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, March 3, 2024. Seven ladies answered roll call.

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.

Old Business:

1. The cheeseball workday schedule was presented and many of the slots were filled. Sandy will work on filling the empty slots. We will start at 8:00 a.m. and work until finished.

New Business:

1. Faye Error will be caring for Josh & Erica's children for two weeks. Discussion was held on how we could help them by supplying meals. Sandy will talk to Faye to see if and how we can help.
2. Janet Truemner wishes to buy a new freezer for the church as a memorial to her husband, Lee. Discussion was held on what type we would like. It was decided that Janet will make the choice of which one she wants to purchase.

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

APRIL IS MITE BOX COLLECTION MONTH.

Get the Scoop On Youth Group And Sunday School

Thanks to everyone who helped and those who made coffee cakes, muffins, pastries for Easter breakfast. We had so many great helpers; between Saturday night and Sunday morning there were 21 kids and 21 adults who volunteered their time and talents to serve about 100 people. The money raised from the free-will offering will help with VBS crafts and classroom necessities. Special thanks to Chris and Terry Gettel for donating the sausage and Melissa Deming for donating the eggs. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Can we get enough youth group kids and friends for a kickball game on Saturday, April 27th at 1:00 p.m.? I'll be cooking soups during the day, so it would be great to get the kids together for some fun AND help me sort soup orders.

I need some youth group boys and fathers to help with Mother/Daughter Banquet. If you are available to help, please let me know.

Sunday School hosted the Lenten Supper on March 13th. We had almost 40 people for dinner. Thanks to everyone who helped make desserts and for those who helped with cleanup. The kids were really good helpers! The money from free-will offering was used to pay for SS bowling day.

The Sunday School kids worked really hard for Palm Sunday and Easter songs. They did a terrific job at St Paul AND at Good Shepherd! I am very proud of them. It was wonderful to see so many of them on the altar Easter Sunday!

Bowling was fun! Brettly Ewald had the highest score of the big kids. Tristan Deming had the highest score of the younger kids. I'll try to figure out one more fun field trip before the end of the year- hoping indoor swim! Stay tuned for more info.

We have six weeks of classes left in this school year. Please keep bringing them to church and Sunday school each week to hear God's Word.

Help them follow along during service, sing hymns with them, ask them about the sermon and Sunday School lessons each week.

We are playing bells April 14th and 28th. Recognition Sunday will be Mother's Day, May 12th. The kids will be singing to celebrate, then we will recognize all the students and teachers, and we will finish with coffee hour snacks for everyone!

Yours in Christ,
Susan Schember – SS Superintendent/YG Leader

CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR: JESUS GIVES US JOY – VBS

June 24 thru June 27
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We're having a party—a party to celebrate the Savior—and you're invited! We're excited for VBS with Bible stories, fun crafts, engaging activities, and catchy music to share God's love. 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 aged 4 years through 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

SOUP SALE SOUP SALE SOUP SALE

I'm planning a soup sale fundraiser in April. Youth and Sunday School can take orders until April 14th. The soup will be cooked April 26th and 27th. It will be ready for pickup on Saturday, April 27th 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and after church on April 28th.

Order yours today! The money raised will help pay for field trips and family events.

YOUTH GROUP SOUP SALE

Soups will be available for pickup Saturday, April 27th 3-4pm or Sunday, April 28th after church. Please order with a youth group member or at church by April 14th.

Money is due at pickup.

Name:	# of Chicken Noodle	# of Bean with Ham	# of Broccoli Cheese	Total Quarts ordered	Total \$ Due: \$7/quart

Youth Group Member: _____



May 11th Noon until 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. Invite your moms, grandmas, aunts, friends, neighbors, daughters, granddaughters, and nieces for a lovely day celebrating the women in our lives.

Giving Back - we will be collecting non-perishable food items, cleaning products, laundry products, and hygiene products for Thumb Blessing Boxes and Pigeon Food Pantry. Please bring your donations that day.

I would like to get some youth group boys and fathers to help with serving and cleanup. Please send me a text or let me know at church if you're available to help out.

Susan Schember
586 246-4567



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 Notter Road Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 678-4356	Beverly Liedke C/O Brenda Baugher 7180 S. Loomis Road DeWitt, MI 48820
Bonnie Nowaczyk 7305 Main Street Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 553-4286 or (989) 678-4286	Dorothy Rathje Courtney Manor Room 414 1167 Hopson Street Bad Axe, MI 48413
Dennis & Linda Schweitzer 2875 Shebeon Road Sebewaing, MI 48759 (989) 883-9197	Jeannine Ziehm c/o Jennifer Scott 5318 Indian Trail Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Suggitt

Church & Office Phone: (989) 453-2271
Pastor Suggitt's Cell Phone: (989) 551-3976

Church Email: lvlpaul40@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.



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.



Articles for the May issue of St. Paul's "Epistles" are due Sunday, April 21st. 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.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Orphan Grain Train of Sebawaing 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

LIFE QUOTE

So, what can we do? We must keep doing what we have always done. We must continue to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We must be sure our own church members, families, friends, and co-workers understand the value that God places on all human life.

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

NEWS

At the Huron County Right To Life annual Focus on Life Fundraising Benefit Dinner held in March, St. Paul received a “Bronze Table Award.” This award was given to those churches that filled a table with eight people at the event (we had nine). We heard Theresa Henderson speak on how she was conceived in rape and by God’s grace her mother chose life (recognizing all children are valuable no matter how they are conceived). She encouraged those in attendance to continue to pray, fast, and work for the unborn who are under attack in our country. May our Lord Jesus continue to grant us courage to speak up for life.



&



- To Faye and the choir members for your dedication to St. Paul’s choir. Your anthems add so much to our worship services. We really appreciate all the work you put into beautifying our services and praising our Risen Lord.
- To Susan, the Youth Group members & parents as well as the Sunday School kids for supplying such a delicious meal for the Easter breakfast.
- Several of our shut-ins said ‘Thank you so very, very much for the beautiful cards that we received for Easter.’ Whoever was responsible – it was a great idea. We’re sure that everyone who received them was very appreciative as well.

IN HIS SERVICE

APRIL ELDERS

April 7 – Josh Sprague & Ken Haley
April 14 – Robert Haag & Matt Reibling
April 21 – Joe Salcido & Ron Tabar
April 28 – Josh Sprague & Ken Haley

APRIL GREETERS

April 7 – Norbert & Liz Reehl and Girls
April 14 – Jason & Patti Reinhardt
April 21 – Charlie & Margaret Timmons
April 28 – Dick & Lucille Welchner

APRIL ACOLYTES

April 7 – Emma Reibling
April 14 – Jackson Rosenthal
April 21 – Kendyl Reehl
April 28 – Walter Haag

APRIL ALTAR GUILD & ALTAR FLOWERS

Brandy Gunsell & Tiffany O'Hare

TITHE COUNTERS

April 14 – Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker
April 28 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel

SNOW PATROL

April 7 – **Stoeckle**
April 14 – **Fluegge**
April 21 – **Volunteer**



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

APRIL



April 1 – Claire Suggitt
Jessica Higgins
Michelle Haley
April 2 – Levi Renn
Brock Shope
April 3 – David Jamieson
April 4 – Aaron Diebel
Miles Carlisle
April 5 – Lilah Reibling
April 6 – Ava Reibling
Michelle Reibling
Garrett Toner
April 8 – Nashia Barr
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

April is Mite Collection Month.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 6:15 PM Elder Mtg. 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	3	4	5	6
7 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS/Coffee Hr. Ladies Aid Mtg. 1:30 PM Catechism 7:00PM Youth Bible Study	8	9	10	11 6:30 PM Bible Study	12	13
14 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS/Coffee Hr. 1:30 PM Catechism 7:00 PM Young Men's Group	15	16	17	18 6:30 PM Bible Study	19	20
21 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS/Coffee Hr. Voters' Mtg. 1:30 PM Catechism	22	23	24	25 6:30 PM Bible Study	26	27
28 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS/Coffee Hr. 1:30 PM Catechism	29	30			2024	

St. Paul's "Epistles"



*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755*



SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024