



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

May 2024

Volume 40 No. 7

You know the sayings which are meant to encourage in some way but end up being clichés: pressure makes diamonds, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, practice makes perfect, never give up, when the going gets tough the tough get going, perfect practice makes perfect, etc...

Christians have something better than clichés. We have the Word of God for encouragement. In fact, the apostle Paul encourages Christians many times and he even uses athletic references often. Because we need encouragement. We need our efforts to be reorientated toward that which is good, right, and true. We need guidance for when the going does get tough, when our faith in Christ is attacked, when we are disheartened in the face of challenges in the Christian life.

When the apostle uses athletic references to compare the Christian life and confession, he isn't referring the casual athlete in the weekend co-ed softball league. He has in mind those who have sworn to train diligently in order to be their best. He has in mind those who have their sights set on the top of the podium, the heroic praise which will ensue for them, and the future they will thereby set up for themselves.

The contrast, however, is that their rewards will eventually rust, fade, and be forgotten about but the Christian's reward in Jesus is far superior and eternal. We have a greater purpose to strive for, to be diligent toward, and a greater future to behold. We are the redeemed in Christ. We are God's holy people. We can see through the temporal challenges toward the victory secured for us in heavenly places!

With this in mind, here are a few athletic references the apostle uses to encourage Christians fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7):

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Hebrews 12:1-2 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Philippians 3:12-14 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:3-5 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt



The regular monthly meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, April 7, 2024,

immediately following our worship service.

Janet read "So Now What?" – Easter is over; so now what? Jesus' job isn't over – and neither is ours! We still hear the Good News every Sunday.

The Mission Statement of St. Paul Lutheran Ladies Aid Society was recited by all. Thirteen ladies answered roll call.

1. A card was read from Rev. Josh Error thanking the Ladies Aid for supporting him.
2. The check has been issued to Popham's for the Ladies Aid half of the purchase cost of the new carpeting.
3. Linda Roe inquired if we had criteria for donations such as only church members as donations were a big issue for the Lion's Club. Our treasurer explained how it's been handled in the past.
4. Pastor needs –
 - a. A new whiteboard – he will pick it out and we will pay for it.
 - b. Pink altar cloths for several occasions during the church year – Pastor will order whatever is needed.
5. Several ladies commented that they had heard that the church needed a new furnace. The Council has discussed this issue but for now we have replacement parts for it.
6. Ruth K. has been busy cleaning the basement and working on baskets for the bazaar. She organized the canning jars and cleaned that area. We will definitely need regular rings and both sizes of lids. If anybody goes to the Mennonite store you can pick some up and she will re-imburse you. Also watch for sales.

7. Discussion was held concerning the Thumb Blessing Boxes as many organizations have stopped giving.
8. Janet Truemner has requested a replacement to take care of Rada supplies.
9. There are still close to 50 cheeseballs left to sell.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Salcido



May 11, 2024
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.

A signup sheet has been posted on the table at the top of the stairs in the North narthex. Please let me know how many are coming!

Submitted by Susan Schember 586 246-4567

SUNDAY SCHOOL FINALE

Sunday school is almost over for this year. We have class April 28th, May 5th, and May 12th. Recognition Sunday is on Mother's Day, May 12th. The kids will be singing a song during church; students and teachers will be recognized immediately after service; we will have a special snack; and we will finish with our last class. Confirmation is the following week. Then we will start classes again on Rally Day in the fall – Sept 8th.

Let's finish strong for these last few weeks!

I'd like to plan a Sunday School family outing at our cottage in the summer. Families will be invited to drive down to Harsens Island for a long day of fun in the sun. We have swimming, paddle boards, kayaks, sand volleyball, lots of yard games, and a bonfire pit. I'm thinking Tuesday, August 6th. We would start with lunch at noon, and end with hotdogs and s'mores on the bonfire at 7:00 p.m. I will purchase ferry tickets for each family who wants to come. Start thinking about it!

I also want each Sunday School Class to submit an entry for Kohl Farms bale contest in the fall. They provide the giant round bale, we do the decorating. Decorating begins Sept 20th and ends Sept 29th. Prizes from \$25 to \$250. I will let them know that we need 3 bales for Sunday School and 1 for Youth Group. Let's do this!

I wanted to give a special thanks to:

Faye Errer for always working with us to sing and play bells.

Brandy Gunsell for always being my backup when needed in the kitchen.

All the teachers and subs who use their time and talent to teach God's word to the children.

Sandy Salcido for always printing our notes, programs, signup sheets, etc.

Everyone who made or purchased treats for coffee hour throughout the year.

Susan Schember, Sunday School Superintendent

The Rite of Confirmation and First Communion



Confirmation celebrates the reception of the Lord's Word among our catechumens and, in cases where the candidates have not yet communed, welcomes them to the Lord's Table. The rite declares of a catechumen that he or she is a Christian who has been baptized, confesses the faith, and is in communion with Christ and His Church. The reception of catechumens to the Lord's Table assumes that ongoing catechesis is the way of life for the faithful Christian. We pray that by our Lord's grace our confirmands would remain steadfast in the one true faith and be constantly nourished with the Body and Blood of our Savior for the forgiveness of sins unto life and salvation.

2024 Confirmands – May 19

Walter Haag

Kendyl Reehl

Please help us celebrate Walter and Kendyl's confirmation on Sunday, May 19, 2024, in the church fellowship hall.

Refreshments will be served, and EVERYBODY IS INVITED! Hope to see you there.

Robert & Amy Haag

Norbert & Liz Reehl

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

Youth group boys and dads are needed to help serve and cleanup at Mother Daughter Banquet on Saturday, May 11th. Please dress nice, as the ladies will be looking fancy! Helpers can earn community service hours AND we will feed you too. Let me know if you can help.

Soup Sale fundraiser was a success – the youth group raised over \$1000 to be used for future events and field trips. Thanks to everyone who purchased soups, helped prepare soups, helped package and sort soups.

Next big thing for youth group will be Vacation Bible School. Students going into 5th, 6th, and 7th grades will be in class, but older kids are always needed to help. If you can come, we could really use you! You can also earn community service hours doing this.

Youth group summer event – I'd like to plan a youth group Fun Day at Key North in July. Looking at Wednesday, July 10th, but waiting to confirm once they are open. Kids will get to play/drive Adventure Golf, Go Karts, and Bumper Boats. Soup Sale profits will be used to pay for this event.

I want to have a Youth Group entry for the Kohl Farms bale contest in the fall. We will meet later in the summer to start building/putting together the parts for our bale. I have a wonderful sunflower bale planned, just need to figure out how to build it! Decorating at the farm begins Sept 20th and ends Sept 29th. Stay tuned....

Youth group will also be making some really nice Christmas crafts to sell at the bazaar. We will have a build-em, paint-em, decorate-em day in early fall. With the help of a few good men and their power tools, we can crank these out in no time!

Susan Schember, Youth Group Leader



CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR: JESUS GIVES US JOY

JUNE 24 thru 27 – 5:30 to 8:00 PM

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 age 4 years 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 are available now. Fill them out and return, so we know how many kids to plan for.

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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Church Email: lvlpaul40@gmail.com
Secretary's Email: salcido.sandy8@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Youth Catechism: 1:30 p.m.



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 Courtney Manor 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

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 2, 2024.** Graduates are invited to attend church in their cap and gown as we recognize their accomplishments. Refreshments 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 19th please.**

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Baby Bottles to Support Positive Alternatives

Keep watch for the annual Baby Bottle Boomerang coming this month. Each family can take the baby bottle supplied, fill it with change or bills or check, and help support the pro-life work of Positive Alternatives located in Caro and Bad Axe.

NewsLetter
DEADLine

The deadline for articles for the June issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" is Sunday, May 19, 2024. You can email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com.

IF I WERE THE DEVIL

A few days ago, I found myself sputtering for the words for this month's article. I had so many thoughts and ideas to write about. Then came the text I had been dreading – Newsletter articles are due by Panic set in until 'she who must be obeyed' said I should hear this. She played an old Paul Harvey radio message. He had written the original essay in 1965 and updated it until he read it on the radio in 1995.

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree – Thee. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first – I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

"To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.'

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

"If I were the devil, I'd soon have families that war with themselves, church at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings, I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions – just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have

drug-sniffing dogs and metal detectors in every schoolhouse door.

"Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography – soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion and deify science. I would lure priests into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil, I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want until I killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what do you bet I would get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, If I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.

Hope you enjoyed it.

The Elder Elder – Joe Salcido

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From the Small Catechism: Confession *What is confession?*

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Private, or individual, confession and absolution is available by appointment with Pastor Suggitt. You may call him at 989.551.3976 to set up a time.



BIRTHDAYS!

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



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

IN HIS SERVICE

ELDERS

May 5 – Joe Salcido & Josh Sprague
 May 9 Ascension Day (7:00 p.m.) – Ron Tabar
 May 12 – Ron Tabar & Matt Reibling
 May 19 – Robert Haag & Ken Haley
 May 26 – Joe Salcido & Josh Sprague

ACOLYTES

May 5 – Henry Haag
 May 12 – Owen Reibling
 May 19 – Chase Swartzendruber
 May 26 – Jackson Rosenthal

GREETERS

May 5 – Don & Peggy Parrish
 May 12 – Ken & Cathy Haley
 May 19 – Dale Kunding & Laura, Chase, and
 Sadie Swartzendruber
 May 25 – Josh & Lisa Sprague and Molly, Silver,
 and Titus

TITHE COUNTERS

May 12 – Liz Reehl & Kim Krohn
 May 26 – Jen Timmons & Brandy Gunsell

ALTAR GUILD & ALTAR FLOWERS

Janet Truemner
 Kari Ricker

May			<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2	3	4
				6:30 PM Bible Study		
5 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS/Coffee Hour Ladies Aid 1:30 PM Catechism 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study	6	7	8	9	10	11
			6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council	7:00 PM Ascension of Our Lord Service		Noon – 2:00 PM Mother Daughter Banquet
12 8:30 AM Service Sunday School Recognition Day with Reception	13	14	15	16	17	18
				6:30 PM Bible Study		
19 8:30 AM Service Youth Confirmation 7:00 PM Young Men's Group	20	21	22	23	24	25
				6:30 PM Bible Study		
26 8:30 AM Service The Holy Trinity	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	
				6:30 PM Bible Study		 <p>Don't Forget</p> <p>Don't forget to plant some extra produce items in your garden for the bazaar.</p>

2024

St. Paul's **"Epistles"**



St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church

7292 Kilmanagh Rd.

Pigeon, MI 48755



The Ascension of Our Lord

Ascension Day Service:
Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

