



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

February 2025

Volume 41 No. 3

***So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
Romans 10:17***



The usually long, cold days of February are broken up by Valentine's Day which lands right in the middle of the month. St. Valentine was a real person who died for confessing faith in Jesus in the third century. Valentine was executed because he confessed without hesitation where true love is found - in our Lord Jesus who lays down His life for us.

Not as well known in the month of February is the remembrance of Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos whose day comes on the thirteenth: one day before St. Valentine's Day. They also confessed the love of God found in His only-begotten Son. But they're not remembered as martyrs (someone who is executed for believing in Jesus). They're remembered as ones who loved to spread the love of God. They loved to break up the long, cold days of unbelief by bringing the Gospel to those who needed to hear it.

Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, were forced out of Rome and joined the apostle Paul in Corinth where they proclaimed Christ even as they made tents as a trade (See Acts 18:1-3). They then went with Paul to Ephesus where the two of them established a home that served as hospitality headquarters for new Christians. It was in Ephesus that Aquila and Priscilla met Apollos. Apollos was an eloquent man and spoke boldly in the synagogue concerning our Lord Jesus. Aquila and Priscilla helped Apollos mature in the faith and later he traveled from Corinth to Achaia where he "showed by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus" (Acts 18:28).

Their love of proclaiming and spreading the Word of God is not only something to be remembered in the middle of a cold February but also a beautiful example to us. We too should want to mature in the faith and bring the love that Jesus has revealed to us to others. We want missionaries to be sent and to help support and pray for them. We want to be eloquent where God has placed us and share the Gospel with our families and the place we live. We want the long, cold days of unbelief to be replaced with the bright warmth of John 3:16 - "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son."

The Prayer of the Day for Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos:

Triune God, whose very name is holy, teach us to be faithful hearers and learners of Your Word, fervent in the spirit as Apollos was, that we may teach it correctly against those who have been led astray into falsehood and error and that we might follow the example of Aquila and Priscilla for the good of the Church You established here and entrusted into our humble care; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

In Christ,

Pastor Suggitt

IN HIS IMAGE

Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture

With the legal redefinition of marriage, the confusion regarding gender, and rapidly changing sexual mores in society, biblical educators, pastors, singles, couples, and parents are looking for guidance in articulating and promoting a positive view of the Christian vision for marriage and sexuality.

Saturday, February 22

8:30am Registration
9:00am Prayer Office
9:45am Session 1
10:45am Break
11:00am Session 2
12:00pm Lunch - Provided
1:00pm Session 3
2:00pm Break
2:30pm Session 4
3:30pm Q&A
3:45pm Closing Prayers

Topics include:

The Christian Worldview and Sexuality; GPS Essentials for Traveling Through Demanding Conversations; Caring for the Child who Identifies as Transgender - Understanding the Big Picture; Christian Responses to Conflict in a Sexually Toxic Culture

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, LINKVILLE
7292 Kilmanagh Rd. Pigeon, MI 48755
989.453.2271

*Please register on the sheet located at church or call St. Paul

This one-day conference is presented by *DOXOLOGY* - a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. *doxology.us*

The one-day conference *In His Image* seeks to provide practical application for regular people who are looking to learn more about and be confident in how God's Word leads us through the changing sexual ideas of today's culture. Even if you're only considering attending, please sign up or call the church to sign-up. There is plenty of room available for all. Guests and friends are welcome to join in this engaging topic presented by *Doxology*.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

STEWARDSHIP

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height
May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light. (*LSB 788*)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (*LSB 788*). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don't see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would "Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love's intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height."

Only when we are immersed in God's Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism's life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord's loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

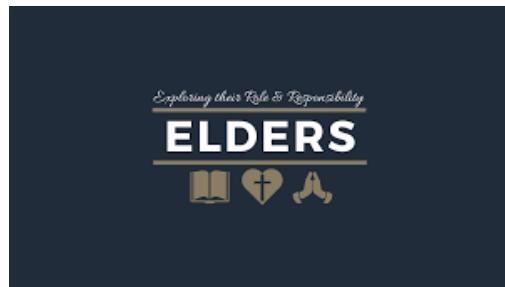
In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ's servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ's love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!



Old habits are hard to break

We've all heard that line before, but it is true. Just think of your own habits – like your morning routine for example. Personally, I begin with my electric toothbrush (that took a while to get used to). I always first brush the upper right side; then the upper left. Next is the bottom left, then bottom right followed by a couple sloshes of water and an extra one, just in case. I then wash my face and eyes with plain water. When I shower, I always wash my left armpit first. Changing habits is very hard to do. If you don't believe me, try altering your morning routine.

The start of a new year is usually a time when we are creating new habits – usually exercise, diet, financial budgeting. If we're lucky and one of them sticks it's usually a good thing that will improve our lives.

While some of our habits require a little more effort to keep, they are also easier to break. Whether by allowing ourselves to slough off a time or two; or by just being too busy in our lives – until at some point it no longer is a habit at all, just an afterthought.

I hope attending Sunday services does not become one of your broken habits or an afterthought. Attending Sunday service is a good habit.

Let's not let complacency or other activities creep in and deter us from keeping our Sundays open to hear His word.

Joe Salcido – the elder Elder

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 (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	Dennis & Linda Schweitzer 2875 Shebeon Road Sebewaing, MI 48759 (989) 883-9197
Jeannine Ziehm c/o Jennifer Scott 5318 Indian Trail Ypsilanti, MI 48197	

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the February issue of St. Paul's "Epistles" is Sunday, February 16, 2025. You can email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com. Please help us keep the congregation informed



We are excited to share all the wonderful things happening in our Sunday School and youth group! We had a little break from Sunday School after Christmas and are now fully ready to learn about God's word.

Upcoming Event: Jesus Loves Me Party

Date: February 16th

Join us for a fun-filled morning of crafts and cookie decorating! We can't wait to celebrate together!

New Sunday School Schedule –

Starting this week, we have a new schedule for Sunday School:

- After Service:

Children will practice singing while Pastor greets everyone.

- Lesson Time:

Pastor will teach the lesson after church.

- Snack Time:

After the lesson, children will enjoy a snack.

- Craft Time:

Each Sunday, there will be a craft related to the lesson!

Volunteer Opportunities: We need you!

We need your help! Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Craft Helpers: If you have a craft, you'd like to share for the Sunday School children to do after church, please do so. Talk to any of the teachers.

- Clean-Up Crew: Help clean up after coffee hour.

- Snack Providers: Bring in snacks for the kids. 5 or 6 dozen should cover the kids & coffee hour participants

- Easter Breakfast Helpers: This will be coming up fast! Help with our Easter breakfast event.

If you would like to help, please sign up! The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex of the church. You can also talk to one of the Sunday school teachers.

Thank you for being a part of our Sunday School family! Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Blessings,

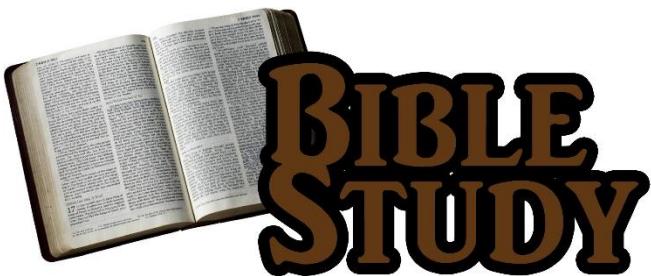
The Sunday School Committee; Lisa Sprague, Michelle Reibling, Amy Haag, Paula Holland, Wendy Ewald

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

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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.



Come and grow in faith as we continue to read and digest God's Word on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



The Lutheran Hour is heard Locally on WLEW Bad Axe at 11:10am Sundays and WSAM 1440 Saginaw at 8:30 a.m. Sundays. OR listen to it anytime anywhere on the Lutheran hour APP on your phone. Download the Lutheran Hour Devotions app and click on Lutheran hour sermons. You can also find the Lutheran hour sermons on the Lutheran hour website at lhm.org. You can also dial 1-800-944-3450 and you will get the recorded instructions. Hit 3 then 1 and the whole Lutheran hour sermon will play just like you are receiving a phone call.

LIFE QUOTE

All life is sacred. Your life is sacred. Every life has infinite worth and eternal value. Your life matters—from conception to natural death to eternity. The psalmist declares: 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well' (Psalm 139:14).

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



- Tyler Drew Parrish passed away Saturday, January 2, 2025. He was given Christian burial on January 5, 2025.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

- On January 12, 2025, Peggy Lynn Parrish, fell asleep in Jesus. She was given Christian burial from St. Paul on January 17, 2025.

Please keep Don and his 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 baby is a blessing.
A gift from Heaven above,
A precious little angel
To cherish and to love.*

We rejoice with Brenden, Jordyn, and Hadley Ricker on the birth of Renley Lee Ricker who was born on January 3, 2025. She weighed 7 pounds 7 oz. and was 20 inches long.

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



- Henry Haag for being inducted into the National Honor Society at Laker High School. Great job, Henry!
- Faith Suggitt for an award-winning performance in the all-senior production of SIX – TEEN edition at Laker High School – Bravo, Faith!



The gift basket girls need your help.

They can use the following items for wrapping the new gift baskets for 2025:

- Used Christmas or any occasion cards – just cut off the personal message section
- Ribbon of any color
- Gift wrap any color

Just take them to the basement or give them to Ruth Kumaus or Joyce Metzger.



INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



In case of inclement weather, please tune in to WLEW 1340 AM to see if services are cancelled.

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.

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.

Clothing: *gently used or new*

- Infant, children's, women'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*)

IN HIS SERVICE

February Elders

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

February Acolytes

2 – Brettly Ewald
9 – Sadie Swartzendruber
16 – Lincoln Ewald
23 – Harold Haag

February Greeters

2 – Derrick, Paula, Dallas, & Kolbie Holland
9 – Josh, Lisa, Molly, Silver, & Titus Sprague
16 – Wendy, Brettly, Lincoln, & Weston Ewald
23 – Terry & Chris Gettel

February Tithe Counters

9 – Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker
23 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel

February Altar Guild & Altar Flowers

Joyce Metzger
Ruth Kumaus

Snow Patrol – February 2023

2 - 8:30 a.m.	Volunteer
9 - 8:30 a.m.	Timmons
16 - 8:30 a.m.	Fluege
23 - 8:30 a.m.	Deming



At the present time we are short one trustee. Therefore, we would appreciate it if some of our members would volunteer to be in charge of snow removal on the sidewalks and steps around the church occasionally. If you are willing to volunteer for this chore, please sign up on the Snow Removal calendar at the south entrance.

Your help would be appreciated.



Feb. 4 – Lisa Halleck
Lilly-Anne Provost
7 – Scott Wright
8 – Ava Dubs
9 – Harold Weisenbach
10 – Karen Britt
11 – Kennedy Bismack
12 – Charlotte Metzger
David Ondrajka
Lila Stein
13 – Chad Timmons
16 – Bradley Barnum
20 – Lola Stein
21 – James O'Hare
22 – Dena Harris
23 – Nicholas O'Hare
23 – Owen Reibling



Feb. 3 – Jim & Sue Albrecht
4th – Herschel & Barb Adams
18 – Matt & Kari Ricker
19 – Steve & Michelle Gayari

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour Ladies Aid Meeting 1:30 AM Catechism 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study	3 6:00 PM Choir	4 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council Mtg	5 6:30 PM Bible Study	6	7	8
9 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism	10 6:00 PM Choir	11	12 6:30 PM Bible Study	13	14	15
16 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study	17 6:00 PM Choir	18	19 6:30 PM Bible Study	20	21	22 8:30 AM IN HIS IMAGE Conference
23 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 PM Catechism	24 6:00 PM Choir	25	26 6:30 PM Bible Study	27	28	29

2025

LWML Mite Box Collection Month

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