



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

July / August 2025

Volume 41 No. 9

What To Do With Freedom

The prophet Daniel had worked his way up to place of regard within King Darius' court. He had standing before the king and was in a position that others envied. Darius was convinced by those who wanted to take Daniel down to create a law which forbid anyone, for thirty days, to pray to or worship any god except King Darius. It became a law. Anyone found breaking that law would be thrown into a den of lions.

According to the law of the land, Daniel wasn't free. He wasn't free to pray, call on, or worship the one true and only God. But it would only be for thirty days, so hey, no big deal. He could go without for a month, right? Wrong. It was a big deal to Daniel. To call upon God, give thanks, pray, serve and obey Him was worth everything to Daniel. *"When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God as he had done previously" (Dan. 6:10).* He knew the law forbid him, he knew the cost, but continued living his life as a Christian anyway.

He ended up in the lions den. A scary, frightful, and surely deadly result of operating outside the scope of what is allowed. But our Lord, as you know, shut the mouths of lions and delivered Daniel from the den. King Darius even ends up making a decree that all the people should tremble before the living God whom Daniel serves.

Daniel wasn't free to worship yet he was glad to do so anyway - no matter the cost. We should, therefore, as Independence Day is upon us, ask ourselves what do we do as ones who are free? We don't have any constraints or threats of death as Daniel did and are thankful to be able to worship freely in our country. Do we take full advantage of that? To live as Christians who have the best message in the world? Would we be okay with taking thirty days off? Daniel wasn't. Even at the threat of a den of lions. Which means he's an encouragement to us who are free. We have much to be thankful for and shouldn't squander or take for granted the fact that our Lord Jesus has put us in country where the Gospel can be freely proclaimed and we can gather openly to be sustained by it. A gift squandered or taken for granted is a gift lost.

We are free to sing, proclaim, and teach our children of the mercies of the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. God bless America so that this will continue to happen here so that freedom in Christ our King would be embraced by all. Daniel wasn't free at the king's decree, but he was faithful. We are free. May we be encouraged to be faithful. God help us and shed His grace on thee.

In Christ,

Pastor Suggitt

Vacation Bible School @ St. Paul

Journey with Jesus

Children from across the community gathered here at St. Paul for 4 days of discovery, fun and faith during our VBS program entitled **Journey with Jesus**. We averaged 20 children each day during the week. Everybody gathered in the sanctuary for our opening and then proceeded to the fellowship hall for dinner provided by various groups from St. Paul.

During class time this energetic group learned about trusting and following God's path, showing love and care to our neighbors, and the best news of all – the Good News that Jesus died and rose again – saving us from our sins so we get to go to Heaven to be with Him! The kids were so great this week learning, participating and sharing in class with each other.

Following class we had recess, craft time – making a fun project to remind them of their time with us, and some energetic singing to fill the air with joyful song.

The kids participated in the collection challenge again this year – boys against girls. The money collected is given to a mission project. This year's project was *Set Free by Jesus* – a mission of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. They are able to place a book about Jesus into the hands of a child living in West Africa for every \$5 given! The challenge this year was a TIE! The children were all winners for sharing a total of \$451.32. Who knows how many lives will be brought into God's family because of our little VBS in Linkville!?!

We want to offer heartfelt thanks to all the families and volunteers who helped make our **Journey with Jesus** a great success. Even though our numbers weren't huge during the week, we truly had a great group of kids.

Thank you for sharing your children to hear and learn and proclaim the love of Jesus with us.

And, THANK YOU TO ALL THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS who made it happen. We couldn't have done it without you!

May the light of this journey continue to shine in our hearts, guiding each of us along the path of love and faith.

Ruth Fluegge, VBS Coordinator



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) 678-4439	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



On June 22, 2025 we are blessed to welcome into the family of faith at St. Paul by the washing and renewal of Holy Baptism Kinslee Grace Ricker, infant daughter of Derek & Emily Ricker. Serving as sponsors for Callie are Brenden & Jordyn Ricker and Andrew & Samantha Schinnerer.

Kinslee is the granddaughter of Matt & Kari Ricker, baby sister to Callie Rose, and the great-granddaughter of Janet Truemner.

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



Sheryl and I wish to thank St. Paul congregation (especially Faye) for the wonderful surprise recognition on Sunday, May 11th for our 50th wedding anniversary on May 17th. We were very touched by the prayers, beautiful altar flowers, card and gift of money. We also appreciated the special treats and decor at the coffee hour. Pastor Suggitt really caught us by surprise after the service. It meant a lot to us, and we will cherish the memory of your care and friendship.

God bless all of you.
Pastor and Sheryl Wensky



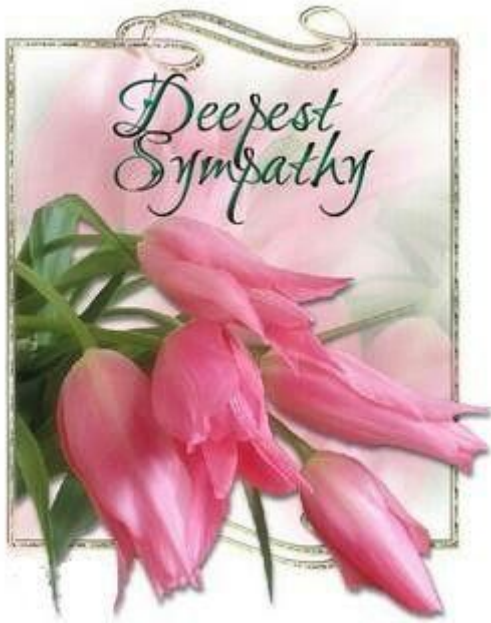
October 18, 2025
10:00 a.m.

The church bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th. What will you and your family do to help make it a success? We need lots of crafts, canned goods, extra produce, lots of baked goods. Let's get everyone involved!

A group of volunteers have been busy working on baskets for the bazaar. We've begun collecting items for White Elephant Sale. Gardens are growing, so hopefully you've been planning what you will be canning for the bazaar.

If you'd like to donate but aren't sure what to contribute, consider teaming up with a friend or neighbor to create a themed basket, or bringing a favorite family recipe to share in the bake sale. Remember, little hands can help too—children's crafts or simple baked goods are always a hit with visitors.

Let's also not forget about the importance of spreading the word. Tell your friends, colleagues, and community groups about the bazaar, and invite them to join us for a day of fun and fellowship. With everyone's generosity and enthusiasm, this year's bazaar is sure to be a memorable event for all!



1933 – 2025

On May 31, 2025, Beverly Ann Liedke passed away peacefully at the age of 91 in DeWitt, Michigan. She was born in Tyre on October 20, 1933 to Theodore and Luellen (Gibbard) Vahovick. Beverly married Orville J. Liedke on April 23, 1966 in Harbor Beach and they made their home in Elkton. She was preceded in death by her husband Orville in July 2004.

Beverly worked at Walbro Corporation in Cass City for 40 plus years. She was a life-long member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Linkville.

Donations can be made to Hospice of Lansing, who provided amazing care for her in her final days, or to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

JOURNEY
OF
Faith

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER?

Church mailbox?

Snail mail?

Email?

Well, guess what? The US Postal Service is going to raise the cost of a first-class postage stamp AGAIN! The cost of copy paper to print the newsletter is rising. So, here's something to think about –

- Are you willing to retrieve your newsletter from your church mailbox?
- Would you be interested in having it delivered via email?

If you're interested in receiving your newsletter via email or in your church mailbox, drop me a note on the desk in the church office and I'll make the change. Thanks.

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.

Catechism: 1:30 p.m.



The deadline for articles for the September issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" is Sunday, August 24, 2025. You can email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com.

Thanks for keeping the congregation informed about what's going at St. Paul.



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.



To our church family:

We would like to thank everyone who sent cards, called, visited and prayed for us after Manuel's accident and during his recovery. We realize how blessed we are to have such a caring church family.

Manuel & Elaine Thies

LIFE QUOTE

Never apologize for sharing God's Word. Never excuse holding or defending a godly position that clearly states how a life issue stands according to Scripture. Abortion is wrong, as is assisted suicide, and many other life issues happening in our world.

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



**LOVE GOD,
LOVE OTHERS**

IN HIS SERVICE

JULY ELDERS

6 – Joe Salcido & Matt Reibling
13 – Josh Sprague & Robert Haag
20 – Ken Haley & Ron Tabar
27 – Joe Salcido & Matt Reibling

JULY ACOLYTES

July 6 – Emma Reibling
July 13 – Sadie Swartzendruber
July 20 – Brettly Ewald
July 27 – Jackson Rosenthal

JULY GREETERS

July 6 – Wendy Ewald and Boys
July 13 – Ron & Diane Dubs
July 20 – Terry & Chris Gettel
July 27 – Brandy Gunsell

JULY TITHE COUNTERS

July 13 – Liz Reehl & Brandy Gunsell
July 27 – Jen Timmons & Brandy Gunsell

JULY ALTAR GUILD & ALTAR FLOWERS

Diane Dubs 989-553-0921
Annette Prich 989-551-2836

IN HIS SERVICE

AUGUST ELDERS

3 – Josh Sprague & Ken Haley
10 – Robert Haag & Matt Reibling
17 – Joe Salcido & Ron Tabar
24 – Josh Sprague & Ken Haley
31 – Robert Haag & Matt Reibling

AUGUST ACOLYTES

August 3 – Lincoln Ewald
August 10 – Harold Haag
August 17 – Emma Reibling
August 24 – Sadie Swartzendruber
August 31 – Brettly Ewald

AUGUST GREETERS

August 3 – Derrick & Paula Holland and kids
August 10 – Joyce Metzger
August 17 – Norbert & Liz Reehl and Girls
August 24 – Chad & Jen Timmons
August 31 – Charlie & Margaret Timmons

AUGUST TITHE COUNTERS

August 10 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel
August 24 – Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker

AUGUST ALTAR GUILD & ALTAR FLOWERS

Margaret Timmons 989-678-4146
Jen Timmons 989-553-4468

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 1 – Archie Carlisle
 2 – Anna Haag
 2 – Todd Murphy
 4 – Gage Metzger
 4 – Pastor Lee Wensky
 5 – Richard Welchner
 7 – Patrick Fritz
 11 – Katelyn Dubs
 12 – Joshua Seibel
 13 – Allen Roe
 14 – Kolbie Holland
 14 – Joell Wissner
 15 – Jeannine Ziehm
 15 – Kristen Suggitt
 16 – Dennis Dubs
 16 – Tristin Bruce
 17 – Nichole Nowaczyk
 24 – Sharyn Rockefeller
 25 – Stephen Rockefeller
 27 – Dylan Dubs
 29 – Annette Prich
 29 – Wanda Dubs
 31 – Joyce Metzger
 31 – Katelyn Romzek



July 2 – Ron & Diana Dubs
 5 – Matt & Michelle Reibling
 10 – Derrick & Paula Holland
 31 – Shawn & Laura Swartzendruber



Aug. 3 – Chris Gettel
 3 – Jacob O'Hare
 4 – Michelle Murphy
 5 – Richard Renn Sr.
 5 – Chase Swartzendruber
 7 – Benjamin Engelhardt
 7 – Noah Osantoski
 8 – Brandy Gunsell
 11 – Derek Ricker
 11 – Justin Dubs
 12 – Don Parrish
 12 – Jerold Stein
 13 – Ruth Fluegge
 13 – Kaylee Krohn
 14 – Garry McKellar
 15 – Adam Reinhardt
 17 – Gerald Dubs
 19 – Jeremy Jamieson
 19 – Tiffany Jamieson
 19 – Joe Salcido, Jr.
 19 – Kevin Dubs
 19 – Lacie Prich
 22 – Rich Witkovsky
 25 – Paula Holland
 26 – Jeffrey Kovach
 26 – Pastor Suggitt
 27 – Jane Schuette
 27 – Laura Toner
 27 – Jennifer Timmons
 28 – Larry Prich
 29 – Chris Tabar
 30 – Madison Renn
 30 – Kaitlynn Stein
 31 – Deborah Ziehm



Aug. 8 – David & Hope Gilbert
 15 – Charles & Margaret Timmons
 25 – Jason & Patti Reinhardt

July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 No Elder/Council Meeting	2 6:30 PM Bible Study	3	4	5
6 8:30 AM Service	7 Pastor on Vacation	8 Pastor on Vacation	9 No Bible Study Pastor on Vacation	10 Pastor on Vacation	11 Pastor on Vacation	12 Pastor on Vacation
13 8:30 AM Service Pastor on Vacation	14 Pastor on Vacation	15 Pastor on Vacation	16 No Bible Study Pastor on Vacation	17	18	19
20 8:30 AM Service 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study	21	22	23 6:30 PM Bible Study	24	25	26
27 8:30 AM Service	28 Pastor @ Conference	29 Pastor @ Conference	30 Pastor @ Conference	31		

2025

August

<i>Sun</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 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council	6 6:30 PM Bible Study	7	8	9
10 8:30 AM Service 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study	12	13	14 6:30 PM Bible Study	15	16	17
17 8:30 AM Service	18	19	20 6:30 PM Bible Study	21	22	23
24 8:30 AM Service	25	26	27 6:30 PM Bible Study	28	39	30
31 8:30 AM Service						

2025

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*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755*



Sunday @ 8:30 a.m.