



*St. Paul's*

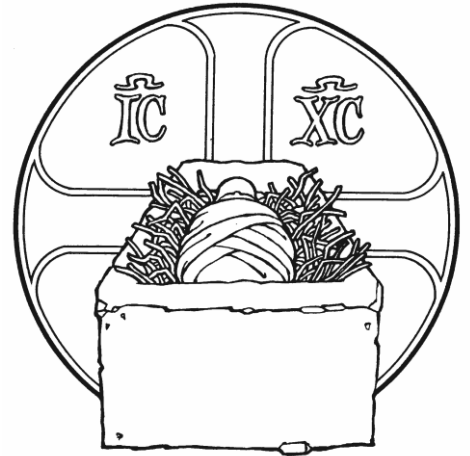
# *"Epistles"*

*December 2025*

*Volume 41 No. 1*

St. Matthew interprets for us the prophecy given in Isaiah 7:14, Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his Immanuel (see Matthew 1:22-23 which quotes Is. 7:14). Matthew lets us know that Immanuel means "God with Us" and applies this title specifically to Jesus.

Jesus is "God with us", that is, God in human flesh who has come to save. Christmas is the revealing of this great prophecy and truth - that you don't have a God who just looks on you from afar, but rather One who comes very near - that He is not above being born in the muck and the mire of the animal stall in order to deliver His people from their own uncleanness. This makes "God with us" the most profound and joyous thing! It makes the angels rejoice. It makes the Magi travel a long way to lay eyes on prophecy come true. It makes us sit in wonder on Christmas to know our loving God is with us. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity! (LSB 380) Who doesn't love Christmas?



Even if you don't have anything under the tree or don't get invited to any dinners, Christmas still means God with Us has come. Could you or all the earth receive a better gift? Could you have a better feast than what He prepares for you? The fact is, to believe what Matthew is telling us is to believe there is joy for you at Christmas no matter what. Yes, sometimes it can be hard when we think of days gone by or loved ones who no longer take their place at our tables. But the Savior of the world has come and we have hope and strength in that - in Him.

Let Christmas banish all your sadness! One and all, great and small, come with songs of gladness (LSB 360). The world thinks it has it all if the presents are stacked knee deep, but we know of God with Us in the babe come in the manger and nothing can change that. Truth be told, we let that change us.

*He whom the sea  
And wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God's own Son,  
With us are one,  
Dost join us and our children in our weakness. (LSB 372)*

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Suggitt

***It's LUTHERAN WITNESS time!***



It's time to subscribe to **THE LUTHERAN WITNESS** to ensure a discounted rate. The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. The new subscription year doesn't begin until March 2026, but orders need to be sent to the District office by December 15, 2025 to take advantage of a discounted District rate of \$22.50/year. (Individual subscriptions ordered directly from CPH are \$24.99/year.) Payment for subscriptions should be made directly to your church. Late orders will be charged an additional \$2.

Make your check out to *St. Paul Lutheran Church* and place in the basket on the desk in the church office **by next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions about subscriptions, contact Pastor Suggitt at (989) 551-3976.

## LIFE QUOTE

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us pray for all mothers who find themselves pregnant and afraid. Abortion is never the answer. We pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all expectant mothers who find themselves alone and seemingly without hope and that He will help them choose life. Every human being's life is a precious and beautiful miracle.

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

## ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

As we wait to celebrate the birth of our Lord, the church gathers to hear the Word of the God, pray, and sing. While many things compete for your time during this month, come and rest in the peace of our coming King!

Wed. 12/3 at St. Paul, Linkville  
6pm Supper (bring a small dish to  
pass)  
7pm Vespers

Wed. 12/10 at Good Shepherd,  
Caseville  
7pm Vespers

Wed. 12/17 at St. Paul, Linkville  
6pm Supper (bring a small dish to  
pass)  
7pm Vespers





Our Sunday School is entering a joyful and busy season as we prepare for the upcoming Christmas play, which will take place at 5:00 p.m. on the evening of December 21st. The children have already begun practicing their songs after church each Sunday, and we are excited to see their hard work come together.

Please note that we will *not* have Sunday School on Sunday, November 30th; however, any children who are in church that morning will still practice songs following the worship service. We are also pleased to share that the students will be playing handbells during the December 7th service—always a special moment for our congregation.

We are grateful to share that the Thanksgiving families received their dinners and were truly thankful; your generous food donations helped bless others with a warm and joyful holiday meal.

As we look ahead to Christmas, we still have items available to purchase for the five families we are supporting within our community. If you are able, please consider choosing an item or two to donate. Wendy Ewald is coordinating our Christmas family outreach and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sunday School continues to go well, and we feel blessed to welcome more children these past few Sundays. If you haven't already, be sure to stop by the fellowship hall after service for treats and take a moment to enjoy the beautiful Thankful Tree created by our Sunday School children, displayed on the wall as you enter.

As we move deeper into this holiday season, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful congregation. Your generosity in providing donations for families in need has been a true reflection of Christ's love in action, and your support is making a meaningful difference in our community. We are also deeply grateful for the encouragement you show our youngest members as they grow in faith, hope, and understanding through Sunday School.





***"Thank you very much,  
Thank you very much,  
That's the nicest thing  
anyone's ever done for me"***

This past weekend I, your 'elder, elder', was in a musical play entitled "Scrooge". The big musical number was "Thank you very much, Thank you very much, that's the nicest thing anyone's ever done for me".

Most of you have seen or know about the miser Scrooge. He was infatuated with wealth, extremely cold-hearted, and definitely an unforgiving person – especially when it came to his debtors of which he had many. He treated everyone with disdain.

I portrayed several bit characters. One, a gentleman who had the misfortune of collecting donations to buy the poor some meat and drink for Christmas. You could guess how that conversation went!

As the story continues, Scrooge is confronted by the ghost of his long-deceased partner, Jacob Marley who shows Scrooge the long, heavy chains that he must wear for eternity. He says Scrooge must change his ways or he will wear chains that are even heavier. Marley then tells him that three spirits will confront him during the night.

The first spirit is called the Ghost of Christmas Past. She tells Scrooge she is there for his welfare and redemption. She reminds him how he went from a sad, dejected little boy to a young man who lost his only love and chance for marriage and happiness because of his love for work and money.

The next hour he is confronted by a giant – the Ghost of Christmas Present who gives Scrooge a drink of 'the milk of human kindness'. As he drinks it, he finds that he likes it. He likes it a lot. The giant keeps giving Scrooge more 'milk'. He is beginning to soften up a bit and is transformed into someone who cares. Then, the giant shows him how poor his long-time employee, Bob Cratchit's family is at their meager Christmas celebration. They are thankful for it and enjoying it and even thanking that miser Scrooge for all they have.

As the giant leaves, the third spirit arrives – the Ghost of Christmas-to-Come. He shows Scrooge how jubilant and thankful the entire town is when they see his casket displayed in the town square, so much so that they break out into singing '*Thank you very much, that's the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me*'. Then the phantom leads him to the grave of Tiny Tim, the small, crippled son of his employee, Bob Cratchit. He is guilt-ridden. The phantom shows him his own grave and he realizes that his time is short.

He becomes transformed. He awakes on Christmas morning a changed man. He goes and buys gifts for the poor Cratchit family. He then goes about forgiving all his debtors and proceeds to enjoy Christmas with his family.

Just like Scrooge we can be stingy with our things, unforgiving at times and miserly, even cold-hearted. We struggle when confronted, scoff at changing our ways and are afraid of hearing the truth. But when we hear God's word spoken to us it's just like the 'milk of human kindness' the giant gave Scrooge. We like it! It leads us to change our ways, even to forgive and treat others with kindness. So when Pastor reminds us that God sent his only son to die on the cross for our sins shouldn't we all break out into singing 'Thank you very much, etc.'?





To celebrate the spirit of generosity across Huron County, the Huron County Community Foundation (HCCF) proudly presents the Community Philanthropy Award. This honor was introduced in 2024 to recognize HCCF's 30th anniversary and pay tribute to the vision of the organization's founders. The award honors a living individual or couple for service as a volunteer, a board member, or a donor who made a significant effort to help grow our community through philanthropy in Huron County. Nominations are submitted by community members and then reviewed by an HCCF committee to select a recipient.

HCCF is pleased to announce the 2025 Community Philanthropy Award recipient is Melissa Deming of Port Austin.

When the Board of Trustees created this award, they listed characteristics the nominees should possess: commitment, leadership, impact, creativity, and collaboration. Melissa has demonstrated each of these qualities through her leadership of Thumb Blessing Boxes, an effort she founded in 2020 to increase food access in a way that is sustainable, anonymous, and accessible. What began as one small box has now grown into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving two counties. Today, there are 15 Blessing Box locations in Huron County as well as multiple boxes on Thumb Area Transit buses.

Melissa's vision and creativity has created space for dozens of volunteers to step forward to serve the community. Each box is supported by its own team of stewards who clean, monitor, and share updates about their community's box. She has also partnered with more than 40 local organizations, which demonstrates the power of collaboration to meet community needs. Thanks to her dedication, Thumb Blessing Boxes has become a model of community philanthropy in action.





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](http://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



Don Fibrantz 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

Keep them in your prayers, maybe give them a call and/or visit them.

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

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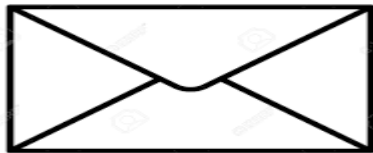
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.



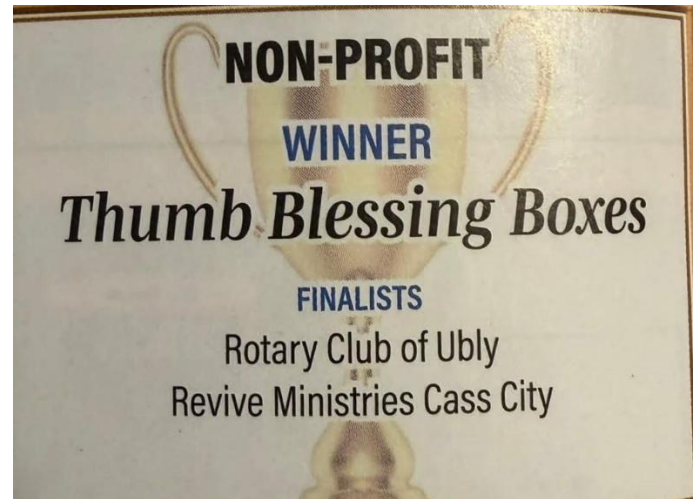
The deadline for the November issue of St. Paul's "Epistle" will be **Sunday, December 21, 2025**. You can email them to Sandy at [salcido.sandy8@gmail.com](mailto:salcido.sandy8@gmail.com)



Do you enjoy singing your favorite Christmas songs? Well, on December 7th, 12th, and 21st we're gonna do just that! Join us in the sanctuary at 8:15 a.m. and we'll sing until just before the service begins.



Your Christmas donation envelope has been included with this issue of the "Epistles". You may place it in the collection plate and any service or mail it to the church. Extra envelopes are available on the table by the mailboxes.



### Thumb Blessing Boxes

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What an honor it is to be selected as the 2025 Readers Choice Award for Huron County's top Non-Profit organization.

It is truly a blessing to witness the growth of an initiative that began with a single box in Bad Axe, Michigan, and has evolved into a full-fledged 501c3 organization within a span of 5.5 years.

Today, Thumb Blessing Boxes has expanded to over 50 locations across Huron and Tuscola Counties, with another expansion on the horizon. This achievement would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our sponsors, partners, and dedicated volunteers who contribute tirelessly to our mission.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community, which plays a vital role in raising awareness about food insecurity. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the individuals who nominated Thumb Blessing Boxes for this award, as well as to each and every one of you who cast your vote in our favor. We feel truly blessed to be part of such compassionate communities that prioritize giving back to those in need.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving. May you be blessed.

Melissa - Founder/Director 🙏

## 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.



# IN HIS SERVICE

## ELDERS

December 3 – Ron Tabar (7:00 p.m. Advent)  
7 – Ron Tabar & Josh Sprague  
14 – Matt Reibling & Ken Haley  
17 – Joe Salcido (7:00 p.m. Advent)  
21 – Joe Salcido & Robert Haag  
24 – Robert Haag & Matt Reibling (7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve)  
25 – Ken Haley & Ron Tabar (8:30 a.m. Christmas Day)  
28 – Josh Sprague & Ron Tabar  
31 – Joe Salcido (5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve)

## GREETERS

December 7 – Annette Prich  
14 – Marc & Jodi Reinhardt  
21 – Harold & Marge Weisenbach  
24 – Terry & Chris Gettel  
28 – Norbert & Liz Reehl and Girls

## ACOLYTES

December 7 – Sadie Swartzendruber  
14 – Lincoln Ewald  
21 – Harold Haag  
28 – Silver Sprague

## TITHE COUNTERS

December 14 – Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker  
28 – Jyl Shope & Chris Gettel

## DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD & ALTAR FLOWERS

Brandy Gunsell	989 672-9495
Sandy Salcido	989 444-9751



December 4 – Mitchell Schaper  
5 – Wayne Dubs  
6 – Cory Ornowski  
7 – Jeramy Deming  
8 – Ron Dubs, Jr.  
12 – Angie Marie  
12 – Harold Haag  
13 – Joe Salcido, Sr.  
14 – KatyAnna Kruse  
14 – Suzanne Fritz  
15 – Zachary Schember  
15 – Grace Suggitt  
17 – Kristin Rifenbark  
20 – Krissia Krohn  
21 – Tammy Timmons  
22 – Ryan Tabar  
23 – Richard Fluegge  
24 – Matt Reibling  
25 – Morris Dubs  
26 – Anyssa Mandich  
28 – Dennis Schweitzer  
28 – Kimberly Krohn  
29 – Norbert Reehl  
29 – Brady Renn  
30 – Kyle Truemner  
30 – Randy Dub  
31 – David Gilbert



Dec. 8 – Dennis & Linda  
Schweitzer  
Dan & Dedra Sherman  
28 – Michael & Anyssa  
Mandich



# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>2</b>  <b>6:15 PM</b> Elders <b>7:00 PM</b> Council	<b>3</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Potluck Supper  <b>7:00 PM</b> Vespers @ St. Paul	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Service  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>1:30 PM</b> Catechism	<b>8</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Vespers @ Good Shepherd	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Service  <b>9:30 AM</b> SS / Coffee Hour  <b>1:30 PM</b> Catechism	<b>15</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Potluck Supper  <b>7:00 PM</b> Vespers @ St. Paul	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Service <b>9:30 AM</b> SS & Coffee Hr. <b>No Catechism</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Program Pizza Party	<b>22</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> @ GS  <b>7:00 PM</b> @ St. Paul	<b>25</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Service  <b>No SS</b>  <b>No Catechism</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> New Year's Eve Service			

2025

# *St. Paul's "Epistles"*



*St. Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.  
Pigeon, MI 48755*

