



St. Paul's

"Epistles"

February 2025

Volume 42 No. 3

Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it.

Proverbs 15:16



The season of Lent is a battleground. The Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Lent is our Lord Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness to battle the devil's temptations. Spoiler alert: Jesus stands fast and wins.

We are tempted in battle, too. Unlike Jesus, sometimes we fall. It's then that we rush to Jesus and cling to His perfect life and forgiveness. He stands us back up and sticks us back in the battle promising to be our strength through the whole thing. In Lent, we don't pretend that we're not battling against the devil, the world, and our sinful nature and seek to put on the whole armor of God. But like a general who sees where the enemy is attacking the hardest and sends more troops there, we should take notice of the spots in our lives where battle is being waged and perhaps, we haven't bolstered our defenses as we should. Lent calls us to this because it calls us to reflect where I've left my defenses down and allowed the enemy to gain ground. It's a call to repentance (to turn from the sins where I've allowed the enemy to gain ground) and to be strengthened by the mercy and life of Jesus laid down for me.

Sometimes people give something up for Lent. That's good. There are probably many things we should give up not only for Lent. But the purpose of giving something up is not for its own sake but it is to bolster the defenses against the enemy and gain strength. So, for example, if a husband recognizes that he has been neglecting his wife and children because he has given most of his attention to the TV or other screens when he's home, then giving that thing up can move him away from neglect of attention toward an engaging attentiveness to his family - strengthening the home. It can be this way for many things. Each of us must reflect (or "examine ourselves" as St. Paul says) where we may have given ground and pray for the Lord to grant strength to gain it back. He will not fail you.

Giving things up puts me into the practice of realizing that my desires don't rule me, my stuff doesn't rule me, Jesus does and He has a life of blessing to give me. In Lent, we have put before us again that Jesus calls us to pray, fast, and give (Matthew 6) which help guide us to where we should strengthen ourselves and know that our victory has been won in the Lord Christ who has crushed the devil under His feet. All of our practices have that aim - a life of repentance and faith in Christ because He is our battle tested champion whom we seek to serve and confess.

In Christ,

Pastor Suggitt



Update from our Seminarian

Dear friends in Christ,

We pray this Advent/Christmas newsletter finds you well! This year has been busy but fun for our family. When the year began, we were still in Columbus, Ohio as Noah served his vicarage (pastoral internship) year at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our time there meant a great deal to us, and we will always be thankful for both the pastor and the members there. At the beginning of August, it was time to move back to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Lord willing, come April 29th, 2026, Noah will receive a call to a congregation, and we will move for the last time for a long while. Since it's nearing the end of the year, we thought we'd share some highlights.

Noah has been hard at work during his last year of school. In addition to taking classes full-time, he also works in the Writing Center helping students with editing their papers. This is new territory for him, but he's enjoyed the opportunity to not only assist his fellow students but improve his own writing skills through helping others. Additionally, he's the Spiritual Life Chair for the Student Government Association. His primary tasks include scheduling fireside chats and preparing joint Advent and Lent devotional booklets with his counterpart at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Most recently, Noah passed his Theological Interview which means that pending the approval of the faculty, he will be eligible to receive his call to a congregation in April (so long as he completes his coursework, of course!). He's both nervous and excited to hear where the Lord would have him serve. For now, he's cherishing this final year with his classmates and professors.

Rachel continues to work at Essex Brownell (an industrial supplies distributor) as a marketing analyst. She has numerous projects that she's working on at any given time that keep her busy on the job, yet the highlight of each day is coming home to our daughter Eleanor. This year, she's found joy in spending lots of time with Noah and Eleanor, especially during the weekend. Like Noah, she's excited to find out where we will be sent and looks forward to getting settled down as a family.

Finally, **Eleanor** continues to bring immense joy to our lives. She's grown by leaps and bounds this past year, and it's been a delight to watch her discover the world around her. She's walking (more like zooming) around and loves to point out different things for us to name. She's making more unique noises and is starting to say a few more words like "bow," "door," "narwhal (ar-wah)," "cheese," and others, along with the classics "mama" and "dada." Her favorite word though is still "hi." We can tell that she's even learned the words for lots of different things even if she can't say the words themselves yet. By far, her favorite activity right now is reading books out loud to us. Much like her dad, she's already amassed a library that almost can't be contained. We're extremely thankful to the Lord for granting us our wonderful daughter, and we're very excited to see how she'll continue to learn and grow this next year.

As we give thanks for our Lord's incarnation and look forward to his return, we also give thanks to God for each one of you. May God continue to richly bless and keep you!

With Love,

The Dunsmares



| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Don Fibranz Satchell's Christian Foster Care Home 2662 E. Caro Road Caro, MI 48723</p> | <p>Peggy Kelly 6282 Pine Street Cass City, MI 48726 (989) 872-5086</p> |
| <p>Wilma Kovach 2700 Knotter Road Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 678-4439</p> | <p>Bonnie Nowaczyk 7305 Main Street Owendale, MI 48754 (989) 553-4286 or (989) 678-4286</p> |
| <p>Dennis & Linda Schweitzer 2875 Shebeon Road Sebewaing, MI 48759 (989) 883-9197</p> | <p>Jeannine Ziehm c/o Jennifer Scott 5318 Indian Trail Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p> |

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

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

The deadline for the February issue of St. Paul's "Epistles" is Sunday, February 15, 2026. You can email them to Sandy at salcido.sandy8@gmail.com. Please help us keep the congregation informed

We would like to share a few exciting updates and upcoming plans for our Sunday School program. We are so thankful for your continued support as we work together to nurture our children's faith and help them grow in God's Word.

On **March 1st**, our Sunday School students will be heading to Splash Village for a fun and memorable field trip. More detailed information regarding times will be sent out soon. We are looking forward to a wonderful day of fellowship and fun together.

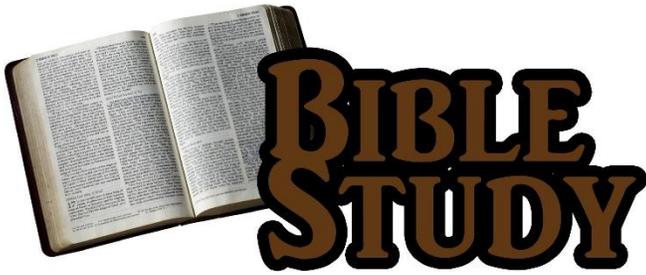
We are also in the process of planning a special space for our older students to gather during Sunday School time while they are waiting after church. Our vision is to create a welcoming room where older children can relax, talk, and build stronger friendships with their church family. If you would be willing to donate games, board games, or comfortable seating to help bring this idea to life, we would greatly appreciate your generosity.

Additionally, we are still looking for congregation members, not only Sunday School parents—to help with our after-service snack rotation. The snack sign-up sheet is always available and ready for volunteers. Having a variety of helpers allows us to share this responsibility and ensures it is not placed on the same families each week.

Our Sunday School teachers are working diligently and faithfully to spread God's Word and teach our children meaningful Bible stories each week. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they serve with love and dedication.

Thank you for being such a blessing to our Sunday School ministry. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out.

The Sunday School Teachers



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 lh.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

The message of Jesus 'transfiguration—the fact that Jesus is God and Savior—has the power to transfigure you, to give you metamorphosis, to transform you from a bug to a butterfly! That's what metamorphosis means. So, this week—and forever!—live a new life, one worthy of Christ, in whose sunshine and light, in whose transfiguration, you now bask.

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



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

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: lvlspaul40@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.

Clothing Drive



What's in your closet?

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 Sebewaing 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*)

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.

Women's

SEEKING HIM



SERVING OTHERS

Ministry

A special meeting of St. Paul Ladies Aid was called to order by President Ruth Fluegge on Sunday, January 4, 2026, immediately following our worship service. Fourteen members answered roll call.

Several items were discussed.

1. We would like to have the church sprayed for spiders with Tempo (suggested by Joyce). This job could possibly be done when the church gets power washed before the bazaar. Motion made by Joyce Metzger; supported by Margaret Timmons. Carried.
2. New flooring in the kitchen & possibly the janitor's room as long as the cost is under \$7,000 that was already approved. Ladies Aid will pay for Luxury Vinyl Tile for the kitchen. Job to be done early in the year by Popham Flooring – Bad Axe. Motion made by Wanda Dubs; supported by Shirley Fritz. Carried
3. Discussion was held regarding the Altar Guild vacancy. Sandy will try to find ladies willing to fill the spots.

A motion was made by Brandy Gunsell & supported by Melissa Deming to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Salcido

IN HIS SERVICE

ELDERS

February 1 – Ron Tabar & Josh Sprague
8 – Robert Haag & Joe Salcido
15 – Matt Reibling & Ken Haley
18 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Joe Salcido
22 – Ron Tabar & Josh Sprague

GREETERS

February 1 – Brandy Gunsell
8 – Joyce Metzger
15 – Josh & Lisa Sprague and Family
22 – Charlie & Margaret Timmons

ACOLYTES

January 25 – Anna Haag

FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS & ALTAR GUILD

Shirley Fritz 989 453-2987
Melissa Deming 989 553-1304

A new flower calendar had been posted in the office.

SNOW PATROL

January 25 – 8:30 a.m. **Timmons**
February 1 – 8:30 a.m. **Fluegge**
8 – 8:30 a.m. **Deming**
15 – 8:30 a.m. **Volunteer**
18 – 7:00 p.m. Ash Wed. **Timmons**
22 – 8:30 a.m. **Fluegge**

TITHE COUNTERS

January 25 – Jen Timmons & Brandy Gunsell
February 8 – Jylan Shope & Chris Gettel
February 22 – Patti Reinhardt & Kari Ricker



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

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|--|------------|--|--|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour Ladies Aid Meeting 1:30 AM Catechism | 2 | 3 6:00 PM Choir 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Council Mtg | 4 6:30 PM Bible Study | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism | 9 | 10 6:00 PM Choir | 11 6:30 PM Bible Study | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 AM Catechism 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study | 16 | 17 6:00 PM Choir | 18 Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 PM @ Good Shepherd 7:00 PM @ St. Paul | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS & Coffee Hour 1:30 PM Catechism | 23 | 24 6:00 PM Choir | 25 Prayer Service 7:00 PM @ Good Shepherd | 26 | 27 | 28 |

2026

LWML Mite Box Collection Month

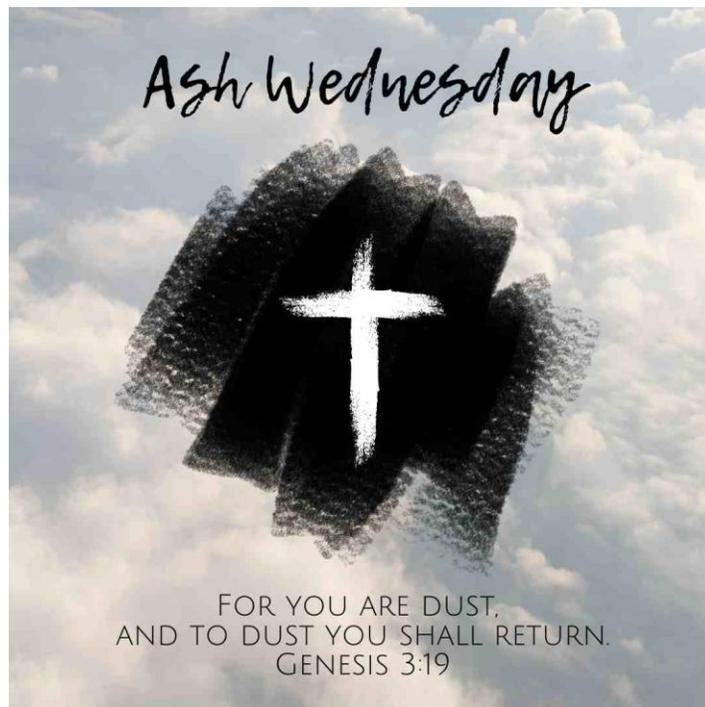
The Pork Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 15th. Why not start thinking about what you'd like to do to help?

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*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755*



Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Paul February 18th @ 7:00 p.m.