

Address Service Requested

St. Paul Lutheran – February Newsletter
Volume 78, No.2



NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #10
SANFORD, MI 48657

2045 Lynn Road
Sanford, Michigan 48657

www.stpaulsanford.org

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaullutheransanford>

Church Office: 989.687.2824

Church Office: stpaul Lutheran@tds.net

Office Hours: Tue, Wed, & Thur (4:30pm-6:30pm)

February 1st Elder's Meeting 6pm
February 11th Council Meeting @11am
Youth Movie Night 2/10 6pm
Trustee Meeting 2/15 6pm
Youth Board Meeting 2/22 6pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS)
Sanford, Michigan



St. Paul provides a spiritual home where we can grow in our faith, live in God's love and reach out to others with the good news of Christ.

ST PAUL LUTHERAN

NEWSLETTER



February 2024

www.stpaulsanford.org

Volume 78 No.2

Repent and Believe

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

“After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:14-15)

This year, the Epiphany Season seems almost to fly past. January 7, we celebrated the Epiphany of Our Lord, His revelation to the nations in the coming of the Magi from the East to worship at the feet of the newborn King of the Jews; barely a month later on February 11, we are going to celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord, the revelation to the disciples of Jesus’ full divine glory. After three years of ministry, Jesus is showing the disciples who He is and why He has come into this world. Of course, Jesus had already made this clear over and over, throughout His ministry, as exemplified in the message of His preaching: “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” These two words perfectly sum up Jesus’ purpose in coming into this world; they are also His message for us today.

“Repent”: “turn away” from your sins! This means accepting that there is One who is greater than us, who establishes right and wrong.

It means acknowledging that what you are doing runs contrary to God's will. It means desiring to be made right with God – something that we confess cannot come from us. And finally, to “repent” means to believe that God forgives you for the sake of Jesus.

“Believe”: “trust” God! Look to the One who is greater and more powerful than you, who has spoken to you in His Word. This means that we receive God's Word as true and conform our lives to what God says to us. Belief is not a matter of head knowledge, of accepting certain facts. Rather, it is a matter of receiving those facts as being “for *me*.” “Jesus died *for me*. Jesus' forgiveness is *for me*.”

When our life is marked by repentance of our sins – when we believe that everything God says in the Bible is *for me* – nothing can be the same for us. Sin has no power over me when my sins have been wiped away by God. Death loses its sting when I believe that I have eternal life in Christ. What an incredible truth this is: I have nothing to fear, because Jesus takes my fears away!

On Ash Wednesday, we will begin the season of Lent. This is a time of repentance, of turning toward God in acknowledgment that we have strayed from Him. It is also a time for discipline and discipleship, for conforming our lives to His will and training our hearts and minds to follow as He leads. I pray that during this holy season, God will continue to work repentance and faith in you, as we seek to serve Him together.

Lenten Worship Services

“What Is a Christian?”

Have you ever been asked, “what is a Christian?” The simple Sunday School answer to this question certainly comes to mind: “A Christian is one who believes in Jesus as their Savior.” And while this answer does explain *whose* a Christian is and how one becomes a Christian, we can go so much deeper. A Christian is characterized by their faith in Jesus, but “you will recognize them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16). The way we live shows us to be Christian. On the Sundays in Lent, Pastor Vossler will unpack the Christian life in five different ways: A Christian is Steadfast, Conciliatory, Zealous, Saved, and Humble.

“Hear Our Penitential Cry”

While most of our favorite psalms declare God’s glory and rejoice in His mighty deeds, not always are our prayers so joyous. Seven times, the psalmists turn to God in penitence, crying out for mercy because of their sinful actions. During our midweek worship services between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, we will be blessed by pastors of the Midland Circuit preaching on the Penitential Psalms to guide our own life of penitence. The Christian life is one of repentance: acknowledging our sins and turning from them toward God, the source of our forgiveness.

LENTEN Midweek SCHEDULE – 2024

February	14	Ash Wednesday
	21	Lent I
	28	Lent II
March	6	Lent III
	13	Lent IV
	20	Lent V

Lenten Dinners @ 6pm & Services @ 7pm. February 21, 28 & March 6, 13, 20

HOLY WEEK – 2024

March	24	Palm Sunday	9:30 am
	28	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
	29	Good Friday	1:00 pm
	31	Easter (Sunrise Svc)	7:00 am
		(Breakfast)	8:00 am
		(Celebration Svc)	9:30 am
April	6	Easter Concert	4:00 pm

St. Paul Stephen Ministry Corner

By: Marilyn Bowen



*“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”
(Galatians 6:2, NRSV)*

“You must understand this, my beloved: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak” (James 1:19a)

“Repent, Sinner, Repent!” The traveling evangelist would scream to the audience, your sins would be exposed to the whole town, loudly and publicly, so everyone would know. If you paid enough money to the evangelist, your sins could be forgiven.

We are so thankful to God that he has a path to forgiveness for us! Jesus has taught us that through our baptism and his grace, we are saved and our sins washed away. He took the sins of all people upon himself, dying on the cross for us. We can rejoice in the knowledge that we are forgiven and are Children of God, under His care. We can repent our sins and confess them to Jesus. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1: 9 Our repentance can help move the way to a more God pleasing life.

“Repent, Sinner, Repent!” Jesus loves you and He is waiting to hear from you-go forth and sin no more!

*“Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear”
Isaiah 65:24*

Confidentiality is the main foundations of this work and is stressed throughout Stephen Ministry. If you would like to contact a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact Michelle DeCoe, or speak with Pastor..also, be sure to visit. stephenministries.org to learn more

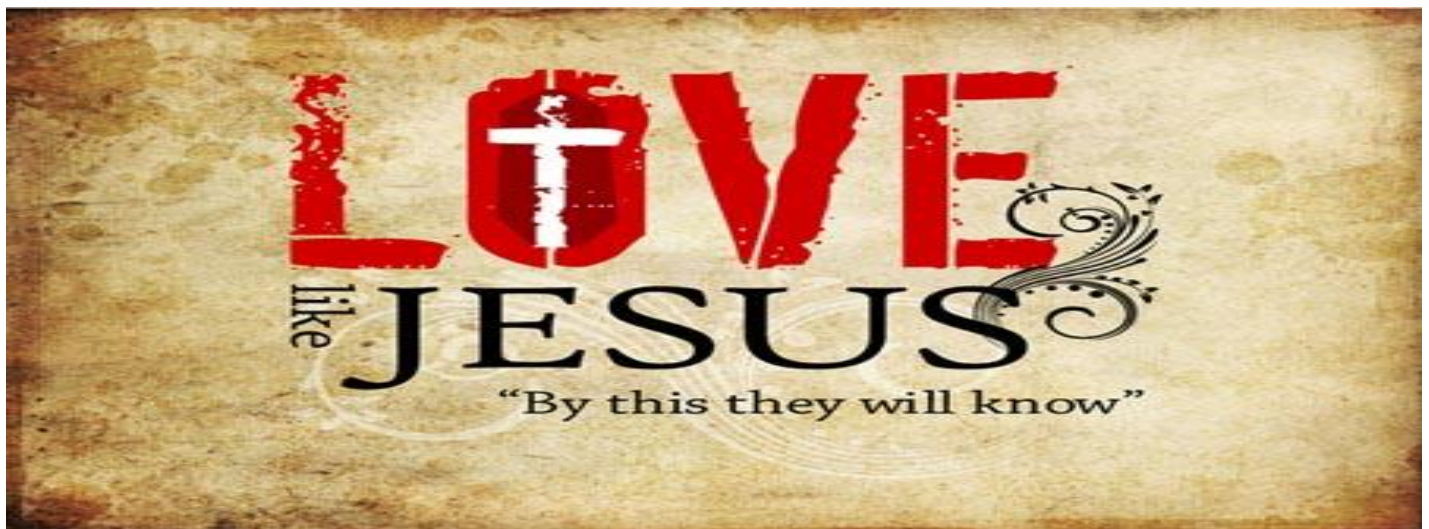


Wanted: VBS Coordinator for Summer 2024

Vacation Bible School is coming up on June 17th - 21st, and we are very excited for this opportunity to bless the youth of our congregation and community! Much of the ground work has already been accomplished, but there is more to be done over the coming months. The Youth Ministry Board is looking for someone to join us and serve as VBS Coordinator for this year. Responsibilities include: attending monthly Youth Ministry Board meetings, organizing VBS week, coordinating volunteers, and overseeing the registration process. If you are willing to serve in this valuable role, please talk to Andrea McDonald or Pastor Vossler.

“Our Heavenly Father remains active and almighty, especially in the difficult circumstances that life issues involve. In joining Himself to us with His incarnation, wisdom, power, atonement, and resurrection, Jesus makes every human life blessed—and a blessing! He lovingly and ably handles decisions about welfare and affliction, life and death, so that we don’t have to do it on our own.” *Pastor Michael Salemink – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. Word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679



SOCIAL MEDIA

We are on the web: www.stpaulsanford.org

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

MIDLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER ONLINE – Subscribe here (very informative):

<https://www.co.midland.mi.us> and search Midland County Newsletter.

MICHIGAN MINUTE: Weekly E-news & Events of the Michigan District, LCMS

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/connect/publications/michiganminute>

SMART PHONE USERS: There are two free apps available for your devices that pertain to your Lutheran Beliefs? LCMS app is free and provides great information including a Daily Devotion. The other is Luther's Small Catechism app which is also free. If you have questions or would like to check it out and need assistance please contact the church office.

The Lutheran Witness is now a free digital app. Once subscribers download the free *Lutheran Witness* magazine app, each new issue automatically will be sent to their newsstands for convenient viewing. Note: While the app itself is free, you will need a paid subscription to the magazine in order to receive it via the app. If you have any questions or would like to see whether the magazine is available for your device, visit www.cph.org/witness to learn more or to download the app. You may also call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

Lutheran Service Book - EBook Edition at enews@cph.org **OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA:**

www.facebook.com/thelcms

www.twitter.com/thelcms

www.youtube.com/thelcms

www.lcms.org/socialmedia

KITCHEN GARBAGE Bags: ALL garbage bags removed from the Kitchen **MUST** be placed in dumpster and **NOT** left outside the back kitchen door. **RECYCLING:** A large bin for recycling only has been placed outside the back kitchen door ... **THIS IS FOR RECYCLING ONLY!** We also have smaller recycling receptacles around the church which are marked with a recycling symbol.



LADIES AID

The third Wednesday of every month is set aside for our monthly meetings at 10:00am beginning in February.

New Year sewing will begin February 14th and be every Wednesday at 9am at the Sunday School.

Ladies Aid Board

Christy Martin-President / Carolyn Sutton-Vice President / Pam Kastl-Secretary / Vicki Barnard-Treasurer

Questions may be directed to: Christy Martin 817.757.9577 email CKM57@me.com or Carolyn Sutton 989.631-3953.

BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information you would like placed into any upcoming bulletins or newsletters, please submit to the church office via email at stpaulutheran@tds.net, calling 687-2824 or by placing it in the church office mailbox located between the restrooms downstairs. Don't forget to state the date(s) you'd like your information to run.

DEADLINES

Newsletters	20 th (monthly)
Bulletins	Wednesday's
by Noon	

Ladies Aid: First meeting will be February 14th @ 9am.

Men's Breakfast: 2nd Saturday of the month

Ladies' Bible Study: 4th Saturday of the Month

Game Night: 3rd Saturday of Month 7pm

LifeLight Bible Study: Tuesdays @ 7pm and Wednesday @ 1pm

Confirmation Classes: on Tuesday Nights 5-6:30pm.



Held every 3 years since 1980, the **LCMS Youth Gathering** provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

We encourage our Youth to share in the once in this lifetime opportunity to learn more about God's love attending "Endure" 2025. To be held July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans



*Youth Movie Night-
Saturday, February
10th at 6pm featuring
"Big Hero 6"*

*Pizza/Popcorn/Smores for movie
discussion. 😊 "*

Interested in joining the **Youth Ministry Board** and focusing on the planning of education/activities designed for our congregation's youth. Please let Gerianne or Pastor know if you can help.



For more information about youth group, Sunday School, youth bible study and

events, please use the QR code to get to the form.

Mission of the Month: In *February*, we are collecting donations for **Wellspring Lutheran Services**, a Christ-centered organization dedicated to helping families work through difficult life situations as well as providing housing options for seniors in need

“BECAUSE WE CARE”

Prayer Request: If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687. **Those**

with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer.

Pastoral Care: Please contact the Pastor @ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or email stpaulrev@tds.net. The Church Office (989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email stpaulutheran@tds.net, or Deacon Don Barnard (989-751-7726) email: esocidnator01@gmail.com. Or stpauldeacon@tds.net if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization, nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us that we receive these communications to plan a call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon you today and every day!

Our florist is, **HANNAH'S FLOWERS**, in Midland. She will be making us a \$25 arrangement. Please continue to return the vases back to the church to help keep the price lower. All other florist prices were higher. You will continue to make your flower payment to the church. Any questions, please talk with Carolyn. Thank you,

Carolyn 631-3953

Altar Guild representatives for February are Carolyn Sutton (631-3953) and Patty Billingsley (860-4024).

To our families with small children: Relax! You and your



children are welcome to our worship service! Being in worship with you to observe and participate in the service will help them to learn how to behave in church – and they will learn that best by watching you worship on a regular basis!

Sit anywhere in the sanctuary that you wish. The last two rows of pews are set aside for families with small children, but you don't *have* to sit there. In fact, sitting close to the front so your children can see what's happening may help them to feel more involved in the service. If they need something to keep their hands occupied, please ask one of the ushers for a copy of the children's bulletins for them to color. If for any reason you need to take your children out of the sanctuary so they can calm down, feel free to bring them into the bathroom at the back of the church. In addition, at the bottom of the stairs we have a cry room to the right, as well as the fellowship hall to the left. With the speakers in the basement, you will be able to hear the service while your child calms down. If your children don't want to sit still or be quiet through the whole service, there is absolutely nothing wrong with them: they are young and learning. The sound of children in worship is the sound of the Church's future.

Please be on the lookout for “phishing” emails and Texts that look like they were sent from Pastor. If you get an email or text asking for something from Pastor, read the from line at the top to see that it was sent from “stpaulrev”, or the Pastor's phone #, or ask Pastor. The bad guys are searching trying to scam people.

If you are interested in private

Communion ...for whatever the reason. Pastor Vossler and Deacon Barnard are willing to share the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior in a private setting. Please contact at their listing for Pastoral care.

THRIVENT

Thrivent Action Team Dollars: St. Paul Members who belong to Thrivent Financial have a unique opportunity to provide financial help for a project here at St. Paul. Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive \$250 twice per year from Thrivent to contribute to a St. Paul project. Examples of projects include: parades, Wild Game Dinner, Easter Breakfast, Harvest Dinner and many others. If you are a Thrivent Member that would like to help us with Thrivent Action Team Dollars on future projects please contact the church office to be placed on a list. Your help is greatly appreciated!

CHOICE DOLLARS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME AND MADE A PHONE CALL TO THRIVENT FOR THE CHOICE DOLLARS. I'M ASKING EVERYONE WHO HAS A THRIVENT POLICY TO CALL, EVEN IF IN DOUBT REGARDING YOUR POLICY ELIGIBILITY. CALL 1-800-847-4836 THEN PUSH 1. THIS IS A PHONE CALL, NOT A COMPUTER GENERATED VOICE. THEY EVEN SPEAK ENGLISH AS THEY ARE BASED IN APPLETON, WISC. CALL IN JANUARY 24, APRIL 2024, JULY, OCTOBER, AND THEN AGAIN IN JANUARY 2025. THESE FUNDS ARE DIRECT DEPOSITED INTO THE CHURCH'S BANK ACCOUNT, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANDLE THEM. THESE ARE 2023 EARNED DOLLARS BEING GIVEN IN 2024. NEXT YEAR MAY BE MORE OR LESS DEPENDING ON THE ECONOMY.

-WILLIAM P. MITCHELL



St. Paul Coffee Mugs are available for \$5.00. If interested, please see Linda Mitchell or Margie Dittmer

LWML 2024 Michigan District Convention-June 28-30, 2024 at Amway, Grand Rapids

LWML Prayer Day/Spring Rally 2024 at St Paul, Sanford. Date to be determined. For more LWML information, Please contact Diana Kausch.

Sanford Food Pantry – Please continue your support of this very worthwhile local ministry. . There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. Thank you for all of the items and monetary donations. *Your donations are appreciated, but please note that the Food Pantry does not accept: 1) weight-loss products; nor 2) food items with an expired date. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please put in the Public Relations Mailbox. Thank you for your consideration in helping those less fortunate. Please make the*

check payable to Sanford Food Pantry

Current needs are: Helpers, Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken.

Has your contact info changed? If so, please contact the church office (687-2824) or stpaulutheran@tds.net and provide us with the changed information (address, phone, email or any other information).

BlackTop Project-We are accepting donations for the parking lot work needing to be done. Please make your donation out to the church and note that the amount should be directed to parking lot.

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

Prayer Request: *If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call or email Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687 / hughrottiers@gmail.com . Those with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer*



**Wanted:
VBS Coordinator for Summer
2024**

Vacation Bible School is coming up on June 17th - 21st, and we are very excited for this opportunity to bless the youth of our congregation and community! Much of the ground work has already been accomplished, but there is more to be done over the coming months. The Youth Ministry Board is looking for someone to join us and serve as VBS Coordinator for this year. Responsibilities include: attending monthly Youth Ministry Board meetings, organizing VBS week, coordinating volunteers, and overseeing the registration process. If you are willing to serve in this valuable role, please talk to Andrea McDonald or Pastor Vossler.

Thank you!
♡

Thank you to Randy Engblade, Mike Schweigert, Don Retzloff for the craftsmanship of the 3 crosses that will go on display 2/11/24.

Thank you to Ladies Aid for the many things they take on around the church and community. 😊

Thank you, Don Barnard as coordinator for the Wild Game Dinner and all those who helped make this such a successful event 😊

February



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Elder's Meeting 6pm		Band Rehearsal 4pm Duane Grubaugh Autumn Schweitzer
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship service with Communion 9:30am Bible Study 11am Loretta Grubaugh Jameson Schweitzer	Pat Barden	Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm Jessica Reger	Public relations 10am Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	Felicia Melchi		Men's Breakfast 8am Band Rehearsal 4pm Movie Night 6pm Grace Read
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship service 9:30am Council Meeting 11am		Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm Bob Burnison Megan Giddings	Ladies Aid 9am Lifelight 1pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm Choir 7:45pm	Trustee Meeting 6pm		Jane Fauver Band Rehearsal 4pm Game Night 7pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Lent Worship service with Communion 9:30am Bible Study 11am		Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Ladies Aid 9am Lifelight 1pm Lent Dinner 6pm Midweek Service 7pm Dean Brewster Alex Garcia	Youth Ministry 6pm	Jack Moeller Betty Szczepanski Tristan Templeman	Women's Bible Study 9am Band Rehearsal 4pm
25	26	27	28	29		
Lent Worship service 9:30am Bible Study 11am		Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm Bill Ellis Larry Terbush	Ladies Aid 9am Lifelight 1pm Lent Dinner 6pm Midweek Service 7pm May Laplow Pearl Wirbel			

February Volunteer Schedule					
	4-Feb	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	3-Mar
ACOLYTES	Natalie & Jackson	Jeffrey & Sam	Deklan & Jace	Madison & Lucas	Natalie & Bradyn
ALTAR FLOWERS	Carolyn Sutton	Open	Open	Open	Gary & Stacy Smith
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy Engblade 989.631.6447				
GREETERS	Curt Bowland	Bill & Linda Mitchell	Christy Martin	Jim & Margie Dittmer	Open
FELLOWSHIP	Open	Open	Julie VanKuiken	Open	Open
ORGANIST	Heidi Stecker	Heidi Stecker	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw
PROCLAIMER	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler
SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard
USHERS	Duane Grubaugh & Curt Bowland	Duane Grubaugh & Curt Bowland	Gerianne Barnard & David McDonald	Gerianne Barnard & David McDonald	Linda Mitchell & Marilyn Bowen
ELDERS	Mark Sprenger, Bob Burnison, Deacon Donald Barnard, Deno O'Connor, Bill Mitchell, Larry Terbush & Mark Burns				