

# ST PAUL LUTHERAN

## NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Volume 72

“Do you understand what I have done to you?” John 13:12

In many ways, this is where everything began. This was the first event of the many events that would constitute the passion of our Lord. To be sure all of the events that preceded this statement also relate to Jesus passion. Before he entered the upper room he suffered the incarnation. Very God of very God became man, taking on all of the limitations inherent to this human condition. He laid aside his divinity, “not counting equality with God a thing to be grasped.” He suffered temptation in the wiles of the devil, in the opposition of his foes and in the weakness of his disciples. Before reclining at the table in the upper room with his disciples he removed his outer robes, tied a towel around his waist, took a basin of water and began to wash the disciples’ feet.

This was a lesson in humility. Such a job was reserved for the lowest of the household servants. It would never be undertaken by the guest of honor at the feast. It is a wonder that Peter objected to this act of humility. Peter understood the necessity of ritual cleanliness prior to the celebration of the Passover meal. He knew that all of the leaven needed to be removed from the premises for everything to be in order. He also knew that the participants at the meal needed to be as pure as they could make themselves for such an occasion. He just did not believe that Jesus was he one to do the cleansing.

Jesus finished the washing and then he asked, “Do you understand what I have done to you?” This is the question of the Lenten season. We must understand all that Jesus does for us and we must understand that he alone can do this work. In each of us there is a constant need for cleansing. “We daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment.” And there is nothing we can do to rectify our sinfulness and avoid the punishment that our sins deserve.

That is why Jesus washed feet. That is why he served his disciples the last supper. That is why he suffered agony in the garden, why he was betrayed by Judas, taken captive by the mob, denied by Peter, unjustly tried before the Council, mocked by Herod, suffered at the hands of Pontius Pilate, beaten, condemned, crucified and buried. We must be freed from our sins. They must be washed away by his blood. And now he asks, “Do you understand what I have done to you?”

As we begin another Lenten journey, another season of solemn heart searching, we must apply this question to ourselves. Over the next forty days we must travel with him as he secures our deliverance. We must cherish his sacrifice and glory in our redemption. We must understand all that he has done for us.

## Midland Circuit Lenten Pulpit Exchange

This year several of the Pastors in our circuit will be exchanging pulpits at the mid-week Lenten services. Our services begin at 7:00. They will be preceded by a supper at 6:00

Our theme for the season is: The Great "I Am"

Feb. 14	Ash Wed.	John 10:7 "I Am the Door"	Pastor Reith
Feb. 21		John 13:13 "I Am Teacher and Lord"	Pastor Reith
Feb. 28		John 14:5-6 "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"	Pastors Seth Hemme/ Pastor Andrew Menz - Zion, Auburn
Mar. 7		John 10:11 "I Am the Good Shepherd"	Deacon Gary Lyvere – Our Savior, Midland
Mar. 14		John 8:12 "I Am the Light of the World"	Pastor Timothy Behnke - St. John's, Brant/ Marion Springs
Mar. 21		John 15:5 "I Am the Vine"	Pastors Daniel Kempin/ Josh Parsons - St. John, Midland

### *Notes from the Pastors Desk*

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** classes continue each week following the fellowship hour. We gather to learn a little more about the Epistle lesson for the week. Class usually gets started at 11:00 and continues to 11:30. When there is a scheduled council or voters meeting, class will not meet.

**CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION** meets **Tuesday's** from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. If you have a child in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade please let the pastor know.

**LIFE LIGHT** – We began a study of Revelation on January 16<sup>th</sup> with Classes are held Tuesdays, in the morning at 11:00 and in the evening at 7:00.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** meets at church on the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m. Join us for breakfast and a brief Bible Study on February 10th. We are currently studying the book of Galatians. We will be done by 9:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Sunday School is held Sunday morning at 10:00. We are always in need of parents who are willing to take turns teaching the lessons. If you are willing and able to help, please call Elder Larry Terbush – 687-5060.

**PIZZA TOPIC NIGHT** - Pizza Topic night is scheduled for February 18. We will meet at 5:00 for Pizza and a short Bible Study. All Jr. & Sr. High youth are invited.

**2018 MISSIONS OF THE MONTH** At the January meeting we selected the missions that we will be supporting as a congregation through our monthly door offerings.

**January** - Pregnancy Aid

**February** - VTF Serendipity Ranch

**March** - St. Paul Youth

**April** - Sanford Food Pantry

**May** - Wellspring Lutheran Services

**June** - Heiney Mission to Africa

**July** - LCMS Armed Forces Ministries/Aaron's gift from home

**August** - Foster Closet of Midland County

**September** - Seminary Student Support

**October** - LWML

**November** - LCMS World Relief

**December** - St. Paul Samaritan Fund



## LADIES AID

Ladies of St. Paul, you are invited to join us every Tuesday at 8:00am for our work days. The third Tuesday of every month is set aside for our monthly meetings at 9:00am.

*We will keep everyone updated on when we start working on World Relief Quilts again.*

*Questions may be directed to: Pat Ochsankehl 513-1251 or Carolyn Sutton 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](mailto: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	15 <sup>th</sup> (monthly)
Bulletins	Wednesday's

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** When sponsoring the weekly Altar Flowers you may include your \$25 Payment with your weekly offering and place inside your offering envelope. Please note on the envelope your flower payment amount and date sponsoring. Also, *please return flower containers to church to keep our flower cost at \$25.* Thank you!

**PASTORAL CARE:** Please contact the Church Office (989-687-2824) or Pastor Reith (989-330-2434) if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from Pastor 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!

### St Paul's Winter Snow Removal

The Sidewalk Snow Removal Chart is posted on the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall. Please stop by to see when you can help!

### 2018 Flower Chart Sign Up

The 2018 Flower Chart is posted! Please refer to the bulletin board to sign up.

## THRIVENT

**Thrivent Action Team Dollars:** St. Paul Members who belong to Thrivent Financial have a unique opportunity to provide financial help for project participation here at St. Paul. Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive \$250 twice per year 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 out with future projects please contact the church office to be placed on a list. Your help is greatly appreciated!

### "BECAUSE WE CARE"

**Need a little help?** Pregnancy Aid has maternity and baby clothing, cribs, diapers and other items to give to anyone needing them. Call Pregnancy Aid of Midland County at 989-835-7144 to arrange an appointment. We also welcome donations of these items and as a Non-Profit Organization we can provide a tax receipt if requested.

**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.**

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

**Sanford Food Pantry:** The current needs are: **Jello, Pudding, & Canned Fruit.** 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 make the check payable to Sanford Food Pantry and put it in the Public Relations Mailbox. Thank you for your consideration in helping those less fortunate.*

## Announcements

**ST PAUL PROJECTS:** Following are projects listed for our church and if you wish to donate specifically to one or both of these funds please indicate by writing on the envelope and/or memo of your check.

## New Roof Project Update

Our church will soon need a new roof and YOUR help is needed. The installation is being planned for 2019 with an estimated cost of \$130,000. **As of December 31**, the funds earmarked for the new roof total **\$97,594**, which includes:

Monthly Donation Goal	Nov. Donations Received	YTD Total Donations Received	General Fund	Dow Foundation
\$3,300	\$5,922	\$45,594	\$50,000	\$4,000

If you would like to make a donation, please place it in your church envelope with the amount on the Church Improvement Line and indicate that it is for the new roof. Memorials, unless otherwise specified, will also be applied to this project. Thank you for your consideration.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**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](http://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](mailto:enews@cph.org)

**OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA:**

[www.facebook.com/thelcms](https://www.facebook.com/thelcms)

[www.twitter.com/thelcms](https://www.twitter.com/thelcms)

[www.youtube.com/thelcms](https://www.youtube.com/thelcms)

[www.lcms.org/socialmedia](http://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. THANK YOU!

## Address Service Requested

St. Paul Lutheran – February Newsletter  
Volume 72



2045 Lynn Road  
Sanford, Michigan 48657  
[www.stpaullutheransanford.net](http://www.stpaullutheransanford.net)  
<https://twitter.com/stpaullutherans>  
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaullutheransanford>

Rev. Samuel B. Reith  
Pastor's Office: 989.687.2209  
Pastor's e-mail: [sbreith@juno.com](mailto:sbreith@juno.com)

Church Office: 989.687.2824  
Church Office: [stpaul Lutheran@tds.net](mailto:stpaul Lutheran@tds.net)  
Office Hours: Tue, Thu & Fri (9am – 2pm)

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**February 1 – Elders Meeting @ 6:00 pm**  
**February 11– Council Meeting @ 11:00 am**

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.