



St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Disciple's Connection

January 2021

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am

Children 10:45am

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor

Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music

Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Church Office

250 Bowhall Road

Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000

www.splcpainesville.org

office@splcpainesville.org

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

preschool@splcpainesville.org

www.stpaulspainesville.com

A New Year Awaits



Are you among the many people who can't wait to see 2020 DONE and OVER!? 2020 might be one of those years that, when we look back, is easily remember for both good and bad. In 20 years of ministry so far, I can say that this has been the most unique year, and I don't think it will soon be repeated.

How about your last 12 months? How has God blessed you in 2020? How much of the year was he seemingly carrying you through? What do you want to be different, better in 2021? I trust 2021 will be different for you because it seems no 2 years ever turn out the same. I hope the New Year brings new opportunities for you and your family.

Let me suggest one small thing for 2021, for myself, for all disciples of St. Paul's. Let peace and comfort fill you. I know that the pandemic has filled many with different levels of unrest and anxiety. All of the decisions we have made about life at St. Paul's have had, for me, a little tinge of uncertainty. I always wonder if we are doing the wise thing. The good news is we have but one way to go, forward. As we go forward, I pray that each of you would find peace and comfort in your life. In the world around us you can so easily find chaos, unrest, worry, anxiety, uncertainty. Even in the midst of a pandemic, God has not changed or moved. He is right where He has always been, right there with us. Where the world is filled with fear, God says over and over, "Fear not". Where the world offers unrest, God says, "I give you peace, not as the world gives". When the world asks, "How are we going to overcome this virus?" God tells us, "I have overcome the world". Come to Jesus and find rest for you soul. Take his light burden & easy yoke and give him your worry, anxiety, unrest, whatever it is that carrying around

As we begin this New Year, let us begin it in prayer. Pray that God will lead you and guide you. Pray that you will be ready go where He leads you. Pray that the enemy will not find a way to deceive you. Pray that in the midst of uncertainty, that the Holy Spirit will calm you with the sure & certain Word of God. Pray for your Council members & Elders. Pray for them as they serve

Pastor's Message continued

God and seek to do His will. Pray for each other as brothers and sisters in the faith who need encouragement every day. Pray for people of this community that all may know Jesus as Lord and Savior and may be brought into a saving relationship with Him. Pray continuously, for the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom



Another Side of Luther's Bible Translation

By Gene Edward Veith

Luther's translation of the Bible into German is celebrated for making the Word of God accessible to ordinary people. Luther's Bible also served as a model

for other vernacular translations, including English, and influenced many through schools designed to teach illiterate masses how to read the Bible.

There was another facet to Luther's work, however, which he began while in hiding at the Wartburg Castle after he was outlawed at the Diet of Worms. As Luther was the first in more than 1,000 years to translate the Bible from the original languages of Greek and Hebrew, his Bible was revolutionary for scholars and theologians.

The medieval church knew the Bible only through a Latin translation made by St. Jerome in A.D. 382–405. This version, known as the "Vulgate," referring to the language of the "vulgar" masses, was a vernacular translation in ancient Rome. It became the only Bible authorized by the Pope.

In Luther's time, there were a few other Bible translations into European languages, such as Wycliffe's English version (1383), but these were translations from the Latin Vulgate. During the Renaissance (fifteenth to sixteenth centuries), Western Europeans rediscovered the Greek language. Erasmus published an edition of the Greek New Testament in 1516. As a professor at the University of Wittenberg, which was dedicated to Renaissance learning, Luther knew Greek and Hebrew. As a translator, he worked from the original languages of the Bible.

Luther found that reading the Scriptures in their original languages opened up depths of meaning that the medieval Roman Catholic church had misinterpreted from the Vulgate.

ANOTHER SIDE OF LUTHER'S BIBLE TRANSLATION *continued*

For example, the Vulgate translates Matthew 3:2 and 4:17 as “do penance [*poenitentiam agite*], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The medieval Roman Catholic Church attached to “penance” the idea that we earn forgiveness through works, merits and satisfactions. Thus, “penance” and its cousin “repentance” became our works. Hence the teachings of purgatory and purchasing indulgences arose in the Roman Catholic Church.

The Greek word in Matthew 3:2 and 4:17 is *metanoeite*, which we translate, “repent.”

When we repent, we find forgiveness because we have been justified by Christ. That key term in English derives from St. Jerome’s use of the Latin word *ustificare*, which comes from the word *justus*, meaning “righteousness,” plus the verb *facare*, meaning “to make.” Through Christ, we are “made righteous.”

Sadly, the medieval Roman Catholic Church rejected this teaching and instead taught that we must become righteous through our own works, merits and satisfactions.

Luther recovered the meaning of “justification” from the Greek word *dikaiosisune*, which comes from a word for “judicial approval.” In our court system, an acquittal means a verdict of “not guilty.” However, the ancient courts put it more strongly: the verdict is “righteous.”

Thus, when Scripture says that we are “justified by faith” (Rom. 3:28; 5:1), it means that we are declared and made righteous by God when we put our trust in Christ’s atoning work on the cross. When we face God’s judgment, despite our sinfulness, the verdict is “righteous,” because Christ’s righteousness is counted as our own.

Luther produced a translation based on the original Greek and Hebrew in the language of the common German people. This Bible taught the Gospel with a new clarity.

Later translations of the Bible into other languages — such as William Tyndale’s English version, which led to the King James Bible and its modern successors — followed Luther, both in how he construed key words and in working from the original languages.

To this day, Lutheran pastors study the Holy Scriptures in the original languages. They use the Greek and Hebrew they learned in seminary to proclaim God’s Word accurately and in its fullness. Like Luther, they use their scholarly learning in the service of making God’s Word accessible to everyone.

Dr. Gene Edward Veith is the author of over 20 books on different facets of Christianity and culture, including, most recently, Authentic Christianity (CPH), with A. Trevor Sutton. A retired English professor and college administrator, he also directs the Cranach Institute at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and blogs regularly at patheos.com/blogs/geneveith.



Life Quotes for January

January 3 "God is not just our God or the God of just our people or just our nation or our congregation or our denomination or our demographic category or our tribe or our ethnicity or our language. There is no justice if it's just about just us. No, God is the God of all time and all space and all people. In Christ, all things hang together. Step into your new year with this fresh recognition that the Holy Spirit wants to fill every nook and cranny of your life until you overflow with God's everlasting love for everybody." *Pastor John Nunes on The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

January 10 "The world needs your voice to declare Jesus' words of eternal life. The world needs your voice to declare God's value of life in all of its stages. The world needs your voice to declare God's convictions born of His Word. The world needs your voice to declare that God's word of forgiveness purchased with the blood of Jesus extends to all of us sinners, including those who have chosen abortion. The world needs your voice!" *Rev. David Eibel, Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, Texas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

January 17 "Abortion isn't something happening in another state or county or city. It is happening right in our backyards. And now we know many [who have had abortions] attend churches regularly and are sitting in our church pews looking for answers. May the Lord provide the answers needed to send a message of hope and forgiveness as well as proclaiming abortion to not be in God's will." *Virginia J. Flo, Minnesota Regional Director & National Conference Director for Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

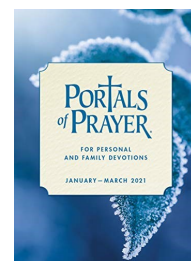
January 24 "Today we don't confess that we are against abortion. We are, of course. But that's not quite it. Today we don't confess that we are pro-life. We are, of course. But that's not quite it, either. Today we confess that God gives life to all things. God makes, and we are made. He makes life, and we leave alive." *Rev. Christopher Esget, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

Announcements

January—March 2021

Portals of Prayer Now Available

The January—March 2021 Portals of Prayer daily devotions are now available. Copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors, or on the resource area table.



2021 Offering Envelopes Are In



The envelopes are on the table by the mailboxes. If we accidentally missed you or if you have never received envelopes before and would like to start, please let Pastor or Dennis Concoby know and we will prepare a box for you.

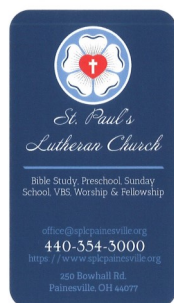
Prayer Quilts

Don't forget to let JoEllen Graziadei or Kristi McConnell know when you have a friend, neighbor or family member that is in need of encouragement and prayers. We can send a prayer quilt to them with a card and an invitation to church. In these troubled times, it's more important than ever to tell people God loves them and we are here for them.



RESTAURANT MINISTRY

If you have begun to venture back out to local eateries, please help St. Paul's reach out to members of our community. Grab a supply of St. Paul's business cards from the basket on the Welcome Center Table near the nursery door. When eating out, write a note of thanks to your waiter/waitress on the back of the card and leave it with their tip. Help us plant the seed ... and let the Holy Spirit do the rest!



2021 LWML Convention



The LWML Convention will be held in Lexington, KY on June 24-27. The host committee shares the following: **Renewed Strength** as we begin a new year. We pray that our strength will be renewed to continue the race to Lexington, Kentucky, and the 2021 LWML Convention. A marathon can dehydrate us and make us thirsty and hungry. We grow weary. The Living Water,

the Bread of Life, the Sacraments, prayer, hearing and studying God's Word, all give us that renewed strength to continue the race toward the goal of bringing all plans to completion. We pray for God's blessings on this convention; that the Lord supplies volunteers from the Host Convention Districts, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, to serve in one of the 500 plus positions available. Go to the LWML Indiana District website, www.lwmlindiana.org to find the Call for Workers! Volunteer Application Form and share the form with others. Workers are needed in all positions. Check the positions where you want to serve by marking them first choice, second choice, etc. Download the form and send or email to Penny Letterman at the address on the form as soon as possible. By volunteering at least eight hours, you will receive a generous discount on your registration fee. You will receive a special registration form along with the discount coupon in a Worker's Packet. Have you ordered your LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirt? Download the order form at www.lwmlindiana.org and order before the March 1, 2021, deadline. See the winter issue of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly for convention information. **DO** select a hotel from the options in the Quarterly. **PLEASE NOTE – all of the above convention information and forms are also found at** <http://lwmlohio.org> IF you are considering attending the convention, please contact Billie Lelle (blelle@roadrunner.com)

Women's Bible Study Resumes

The Women's Bible study will resume on January 13, 2021 (6:30-8:00). All women are invited to join as we study God's Word. All materials are provided. Masks are to be worn and we do practice social distancing.



Are You Saving Your Mites?

If you have been unable to bring your mites to church, you can choose to use the donate button at <http://lwmlohio.org>. Just follow the directions on the page remembering to list St. Paul's, Painesville as your church and Northeast as your zone.



December Meeting Notes

1. Pastor's Report: Pastor reported making 38 calls this month. He and the Elders have finalized details on Christmas Eve services--5:00 & 7:30 with communion and will update safety issues. Pastor stressed the importance of rejoicing in the gifts we have.
2. President's Report: Aaron talked about the trying to address the concerns and needs of the congregation during this season and beyond.
3. Treasurer's Report: Finances remain in good financial shape with donations up and slightly lower than expected expenses so far.
4. Education Report: Average Sunday school and Adult Bible classes holding steady. Adopt-a family donations coming in.
5. Preschool Report: Preschool has shut until January as Lake County went COVID Level Purple. The staff put together and distributed an Activities Packet for students to work on at home. Preschool Board decided to pay partial salaries to staff during the closure. Still looking for an assistant teacher Monday and Wednesday mornings.
6. Elder's Report: Elders and Pastor decided to have Christmas Eve services with communion at 5:00 and 7:30 with several safety and seating adjustments.
7. Stewardship Report: 19 Time & Talent survey results are transferred to spreadsheet. Giving tree donations will be accepted until 1st weekend of January.
8. Financial Secty report: New sign up sheet for next year is posted.
9. Outreach Report: Kristi reported funds for Bibles for Jail Ministry were only about \$100 short (26 Bibles). Labels with our name and logo to be installed in Bibles as well as some quick reference key verses. Star has developed postcards inviting Preschool families to Christmas Eve services. Committee is reviewing new suggestions for future projects.
10. Buildings & Grounds: Fridge arrived! Old unit removed for scrap .Panic bars are installed on sanctuary doors--doors are hollow. CEI has replaced damaged pole out front. Fixed unit 5 furnace issue. Will install and connect digital media/signboard on nursery wall for digital info.
11. Membership Secretary Report: Dennis reported we have received \$160,039 YTD an increase \$6,259 (4.1%) over last year.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES *continued*

Old Business:

1. Committee to review Disaster response guidelines haven't met.

New Business:

1. Christmas Eve safety and seating ideas were suggested and discussed.

Next Meeting: Wed. Jan. 6, 2021 @6:30pm





Star Graziadei	2nd	Al Ponsart	24th
Kevin Kiel	3rd	Nathan Lelle	25th
Marisa Szoradi	7th	Matthew Chaffe	28th
Andy Kujala	9th	Lia Graziadei	28th
Julie Greig	17th	Norm Salminen	29th
Annikki Tompkins	18th	Sue Snodgrass	29th
Sylvia Hendricks	19th	MacKenzi Dewit	30th
Terry Wakelee	21st		



January Anniversaries

Dennis & Connie Concoby 45 years on Jan 17



Altar Flowers



Altar flowers are a great way to celebrate a special day or event. Just add your name, event and who the event is for next to the appropriate weekend on the Altar Flower Chart, which is posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. Please be sure to print clearly. Altar flowers are \$30.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then place in the collection plate.

Those Who Serve: January 2021

ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	John Doeing
9:30 A	Sunday	Jeff Troutman & Eric West

LECTORS:

01-02-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
01-03-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
01-09-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
01-10-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Ken Chaffe
01-16-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
01-17-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
01-23-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
01-24-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Kathleen Pennell
01-30-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
01-31-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle



COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee, Dennis Concoby, Connie Concoby


GREETERS:

6:00 P	Saturday
9:30 A	Sunday

SIGN UP IN JANUARY TO WAVE YOUR
GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double doors
at the back of the Sanctuary

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 COMMUNION SERVICE			WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am	Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays	Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm	1  <i>New Year's Day</i>
3	4	5 Choir Practice 7:00pm	6 Council Meeting 6:30pm  Epiphany	7	8	9 
10  Confirmation Class 4:30pm	11	12 Choir Practice 7:00pm	13 Elders Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	14	15 	16
17	18  MLK ^{JR} DAY	19 Choir Practice 7:00pm	20	21 National Hug Day	22	23 
24  Confirmation Class 4:30pm	25	26 Choir Practice 7:00pm	27 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	28	29	30
31						