



St. Paul's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church



## The Disciple's Connection

February 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](http://www.splcpainesville.org)

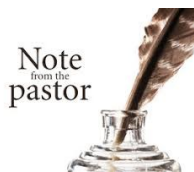
[office@splcpainesville.org](mailto:office@splcpainesville.org)

### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

[preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org)

[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)



## Eyes On Jesus

February usually has some interesting events. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is Groundhog Day. Does anyone really believe a large member of the rodent family can predict the weather? We're going to have 6 more weeks, minimum, of winter. This is Northeast Ohio after all. Valentine's Day is next, a day to celebrate love. A day that, we're told, should have every moment filled with love. Will the news that day be filled with only love? Mari Gras will finish on the 16<sup>th</sup> this year, but a quick search showed that there will be no parades in New Orleans this year. And on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.

We know this season well in Lutheran circles, Lent. I am still surprised by how many Christians have forgotten what Lent is. It's different than the rest of the month. These other events I've mentioned really involve personally receiving something: good weather "prediction", someone's love, a party [in a normal year]. There's an old practice during Lent to give up something. Each year, I hear of people who voluntarily give up something for those 40 days.

Why do people choose to give up something for Lent? It helps them focus on and remember Jesus giving up His life for them. Some find this practice helpful; others think only about the thing they are giving up. If you choose to give up something for Lent, I hope it does help you remember Jesus' sacrifice for you. If you don't, I encourage you to read Hebrews 12:1-3 each day during Lent: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*



## Pastors Message continued

That's what Lent is all about, focusing our attention on Jesus. It is remembering his sacrifice for your sins and my sins. It is about drawing the attention of others to the cross of Christ where Good News, Perfect Love, and Eternal Celebration are found. It is a time to look at your life and take stock of how big a part God is in your life. There are different, free, devotional materials available for you at Lutheran Hour Ministries, [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) and Concordia Publishing House, [cph.org](http://cph.org). Make use of them in these coming 40 days so your eyes may be on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith.

In Christ

*Pastor Sundborn*

## Come, Lord Jesus

By Gene Edward Veith

When I became a Lutheran, one of the few things about my new church that I did not love was the Common Table Prayer that everyone in my congregation would say before meals:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
And let these gifts to us be blest.



This struck me as a children's prayer, like "God is great, God is good" and "Now I lay me down to sleep." Nothing wrong with them, but they sound like singsong nursery rhymes. I much preferred the catechism's table prayer with its strong Biblical core from Psalm 145:15–16: "The eyes of all look to you, O Lord."

But little did I know the depth of the Common Table Prayer and why Lutherans love it. This prayer also has a strong Biblical core: "Come, Lord Jesus" is the last prayer in the Bible (Rev. 22:20). Moreover, it is pretty much the last word of the Bible, appearing next to the last verse of Revelation, just before the closing benediction and the final "Amen."

Scripture ends with a prayer for Jesus to return. The church prays for His return until that happens. But it is also a prayer for Jesus to come in the Gospel. A few verses earlier, the Book of Revelation reveals this to be the word of the Holy Spirit, the word of the church as the Bride of Christ, the word of those who hear this Word of God — namely, us — and also the one "who is thirsty" and in need of grace:



### COME, LORD JESUS *continued*

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (Rev. 22:17)

The Common Table Prayer asks Jesus to come into a humble context, the family gathered together for a meal. "Be our guest." Join us. We welcome You into our home and to our table.

God gives us this day our daily bread by means of farmers and bakers, but also through the "bread winners" and the hands that prepared our meal. Thus, God is present when we sit around the table with our family to enjoy a good meal.

The 19th-century German artist, Fritz von Uhde, a devout Lutheran, [made a painting of this prayer](#). It shows an ordinary peasant family sitting around a table and then Jesus walks in. They stand to greet Him, with bows and shy looks, as they would with any guest. Jesus, the Lord of the universe, has come to this humble family to be with them.

When we call upon the name of Jesus, as we do in this prayer, He is present with us. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matt. 18:20).

The prayer also acknowledges that our food and sustenance are "gifts." We receive "[everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body](#)," in the words of the Small Catechism, from the hands of our gracious God ([SC, Lord's Prayer](#)).

The concept of "gift" is important for Lutheranism. Our salvation is not a matter of "wages," of getting compensated for our work (Rom. 4:4). Indeed, our work has merely earned us death: "For the wages of sin is death," says St. Paul, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Salvation is not our doing, but the gift of God's grace. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

What is true in God's spiritual kingdom is also true in God's earthly kingdom. Our life is His gift. Our vocations in the home, the workplace, the society and the church are His gift. Thus, our spouse, our children and the other members of our family are His gifts. And the food that we are about to eat, after we pray, is His gift.

We pray that God will bless these gifts. And that He will bless them "to us." They will be for our good.

This prayer helps us reflect on Christ's presence and God's gifts even in something as ordinary as eating a meal. We now say it in our home, too.



## Life Quotes for February

**February 7** "If your boyfriend or girlfriend won't go to church with you while you are dating, he or she probably won't when you're married either. How long can you keep your faith life going if your spouse thinks praying, Bible reading, and churchgoing are stupid wastes of time? Abraham went to great lengths to find a believing wife for Isaac." *Pastor Mark Jeske, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**February 14** "For the Christian, the crucifixion is the center of the whole, the event that gives voice to a broken, dark, and dying world, and the paradoxical suggestion of life somehow within it. This is why the church calendar sets apart forty days to prepare for the cross. This is why the church marks steeples and graves in memory of the crucifixion. The death of Christ is the occasion that makes way for the last to be first, the guilty to be pardoned, the creature united again to its creator." *Jill Carattini, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**February 21** "God controlled your salvation from start to finish. He gave you faith in Baptism and strengthens faith through the Word. You can trust that He will continue to keep control of your life because you rest in the palm of His loving hand. Stand firm because God is in control." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**February 28** "Christians are to show no partiality whatsoever. My brother in Christ who happens to have more melanin than I have in the paper-thin upper level of our skin—while all the skin below the paper is the same—is not of a different race than I. So-called 'race' is not even skin deep! That's mere upper-skin coloring, not race. Varying levels of mere melanin indicate that we're all coffee beans—some are blonde roast, some are medium or dark or espresso roast, but we're all coffee, we're all colored people." *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



February 2021

## Announcements

### Are You Feeding Your Mite Box?



Please remember to feed your mite box or use the donate button at <http://lwmlohio.org> to continue to support the mission work of the LWML. Just follow the directions on the page remembering to list St. Paul's, Painesville as your church and Northeast as your zone.

### LWML Ohio District Newsletter

The Spring edition of the LWML Ohio District Newsletter (the ODE) is available online at <http://lwmlohio.org> – the quick link is available on the left column or under the “Resources” tab. Keep up to date on the latest district LWML news.



### 2021 LWML Convention

**A Marathon or a Sprint?** A marathon is a longer run than a sprint and the hosting districts are running a marathon! There are curves and bumps to challenge them as they are “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus.” We are still miles away from the first day of the 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention on June 24-27,

2021, in the Rupp Arena at the Central Bank Center in Lexington, Kentucky. Our coaches, the entire convention committee, have been leading and directing us. We need more volunteers to run this race. That NEED is NOW! Words of encouragement will cheer on the many volunteers/runners. Have you volunteered? Pray for courage to step up to use your gifts and talents and complete the Call for Workers! Volunteer Application Form found at the LWML Indiana District website, [www.lwmlindiana.org](http://www.lwmlindiana.org). (Complete the form on the website and email or download and USPS it to Penny Letterman, address on form.) Men, family members, teens, and friends, may also apply. Missed the February 1, 2021, deadline? Your help will not be refused! By volunteering for eight hours at the convention, you will receive a generous registration discount coupon along with a special registration form in your Worker's Packet. DO NOT use the registration form found in the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*! Wear your LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirt and share the excitement of being a worker or guest at the convention. Order your shirt before March 1, 2021, at [www.lwmlindiana.org](http://www.lwmlindiana.org). As we are “... Looking to Jesus,” may we faithfully serve the LWML and our Savior. Continue to pray for God's guidance and blessings on this convention.





February 2021

## *LWML Northeast Zone Prayer Service*

COMING SOON: The LWML Northeast Zone Prayer Service – “He Prayed With Them” based on Acts 20:36b. The 2021 prayer service will be held on March 6. This uplifting service will be hosted by St. Paul’s, but will be held at Faith, Mentor (8125 Mentor Avenue) to enable live streaming of the service to those who are unable to attend the service in person. There will be no registration fee as no brunch or meal will be served. For those choosing to attend in person, doors will open at 9:30 AM and the service will begin at 10 AM. Masks are required and safe distancing will be observed. Live streaming (via YouTube) information will be made available after all the details have been worked out.



GodLoves  
MARRIAGE

strong  
marriages  
strengthen  
churches



### **Lutheran Marriage Encounter - Winter 2021**

*During Difficult Times Like This, It's Even More Important To*

## **Help Married Husbands & Wives Warm Up To Each Other – Virtually!**

Give married husbands and wives in your congregation the opportunity to celebrate their special relationship while learning unique insights and tools to improve their couple communication for the long haul!

A **virtual** Lutheran Marriage Encounter experience will help your congregation's married couples reap joyful long-term rewards for their relationship, their family, and their faith journey.

### **LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR SPOUSE IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!**

*Register for an upcoming **VIRTUAL Marriage Encounter experience!***

**January 29 - 31, 2021**

**February 12-14, 2021**

**March 12-14, 2021**

**You Can Participate Privately from Your Home or Anywhere That Affords You Privacy as a Couple**

Apply Now / Learn More at [GodLovesMarriage.org](https://GodLovesMarriage.org)!  
Questions? Contact us at [info@godlovesmarriage.org](mailto:info@godlovesmarriage.org)

**Pre-registration is required to send your encounter materials to you via snail mail – don't miss out!**



February 2021



## January Meeting Notes

1. Pastor's Report: Pastor reported making 32 calls and visits and officiated a funeral. Also, attendance for the Christmas Eve services was 80(35 & 45) despite the weather. He also announced his travel schedule. He also stressed the need for prayer for the nation to heal its differences and difficulties, and the opportunities open to the church to spread the Gospel.
2. President's Report: Aaron also stressed the need for continued concern for Covid virus and ways to deal with it and other concerns.
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 were given to families and were well received.
5. Preschool Report: Preschool resumed classes Jan. 4 with no reported cases of Covid of students or staff. 2 families have withdrawn since September. Amy would like to offer online registration process and is seeking someone to assist with its set-up. Board will meet Jan. 14 to discuss future plans and strategies.
6. Elder's Report: None.
7. Stewardship Report: Matt reported 112 items were collected for the Giving Tree and will be distributed on Jan. 7 to SubZero, Christ Child Clothing Cottage, and Hope Chest.
8. Financial Secty report: New sigh up sheet for this year is posted.
9. Outreach Report: Kristi reported funds for Bibles for Jail Ministry reached the goal of 200 Bibles. have been ordered and received. Quick key Bible verses labels will be applied on inside Bible covers as well as St. Paul's gift stamp at Jan. 18 meeting. as well as future plans.
10. Buildings & Grounds: Joe reported trapping mice that have seasonal search for food and warmth. Also, he has made a number of minor repairs and replacements. He also installed and connected Digital/media screen on nursery wall for digital messages.



## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued**

11. Membership Secretary Report: Dennis reported we finished the year about \$500 above 2019. He has also assigned offering box numbers to members and boxes are on table at entryway for pickup.

### **Old Business:**

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

### **New Business:**

1. Synod Convention Proposal: The Missouri Synod has proposed postponing the District conventions this year until 2022 and the Synod convention next year until 2023 and extending current officers one year respectively until conventions can be conducted in person. Estimated costs in the postponements could be \$300,000 to \$700,00, though there are expectations there would be some savings. Eric made a motion to approve Synod's proposal. Jenn 2nd. Motion passes. It was decided that Star and Joe be assigned the 2 officers to electronically send in St. Paul's vote.
2. Office desktop computer Update: Star made a motion to update Peggy's computer Microsoft 365 license. Star 2nd. Motion passed.

**Next Meeting: Wed. Feb. 3, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**







February 2021



## From the Preschool

### PRESCHOOL



### Registration

### 2021-2022 Preschool Registration

Registration for St. Paul's Preschool 2021-2022 school year will be opening soon. If you are interested in your child attending St. Paul's Preschool in the fall please pick up a registration form which can be found in the wooded magazine rack at the back of the church next to the double doors. Registration for current preschool families will begin

on February 8th with open registration beginning February 22nd. Once open registration begins classes will be filled as registration forms are received. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Marizek at 440-354-3000. If you know someone who has a preschool aged child please pass a registration form on to them



### OSLS Kindergarten Registration

It is time to start thinking about Kindergarten!! Our Shepherd Lutheran School is inviting currently enrolled families, associate and affiliate church families, and inquiring families with potential Kindergarteners to our Kindergarten Information Meeting on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting is for parents/guardians only; we are

asking that children remain at home. The registration will be first-come, first-scheduled to the first 10 families; please email our Admissions Department at [Admissions@OSLpainesville.org](mailto:Admissions@OSLpainesville.org) to register to attend.

If you are unable to attend, please email the admissions department to receive an information packet.



February 2021



## February Birthdays

Michelle Lindrose	4th	James West	17th	Joe Wojkowski	26th
Danielle Kiel	7th	Jonah Shaw	18th	Carl Graziadei	28th
Heidi Bennington	12th	Roxanne Walton	19th	Jared Sundbom	28th
Charlotte Hines	14th	Ken Chaffe	24th	JoEllen Graziadei	29th
Jeffrey Kiel	15th	Billie Lelle	26th		



## February Anniversaries

Eric & Pam West	40 years on Feb 07
Bob & Peggy McDonnell	32 years on Feb 25



## Altar Flowers



Is there a special someone, date, or event you would like to celebrate, honor or remember. A great way to do that is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. 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.



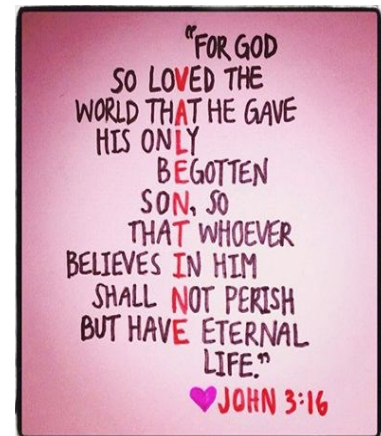
## Those Who Serve: February 2021

### ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A	Sunday	Dale Kerver & Eric West

### LECTORS:

02-06-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
02-07-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
02-13-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
02-14-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
02-17-21	7:00P	Ash Wed	TBD
02-20-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
02-21-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Ken Chaffe
02-27-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
02-28-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell



### COUNTERS:

Ken Chaffe

### GREETERS:

6:00 P	Saturday
9:30 A	Sunday

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

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

# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Black History Month American Heart Month	2 Groundhog Day Choir Practice 7:00pm	3 Council Meeting 6:30pm	4 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	5 National Wear Red Day	6
7	8	9 Choir Practice 7:00pm	10 Elder's Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	11 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	12 Chinese New Year	13 
14  Valentine's Day Confirmation Class 4:30pm Youth Group 6:00pm	15  <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b> Preschool Closed	16 Preschool Closed Marti Gras Choir Practice 7:00pm	17  Lenten Service 7:00pm	18 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	19 March Newsletter Articles Due	20 National Love Your Pet Day
21 Confirmation 4:30pm Youth Group 6:00pm	22	23 Choir Practice 7:00pm	24  Midweek Lent Service 7:00pm	25 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	26	27 
28 		<div>  <b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b> </div> <div> <b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b>            Saturdays - 6:00pm            Sundays - 9:30am            Sunday School - 10:45am            Adult Bible Study—8:30am &amp; 10:45am         </div>			<div>           Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays         </div> <div> <b>Feb. Birth Stone:</b> Amethyst         </div>	<div> <b>Office Hours</b> Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm         </div> <div> <b>February Flower:</b> Violet         </div>