

CANDLEMAS

My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel

—Luke 2:30-32

Forty days after Jesus was born, he and his parents went to the temple in Jerusalem in order to fulfill the law of Moses. As the firstborn son in his earthly family, Mary's child was presented to God, and payment was made to redeem his life, as the life of every firstborn Israelite first belonged to the Lord (Exodus 13:2; Numbers 18:15-16). Joseph and his wife did exactly what their forefathers had done for centuries, knowing full well that all of the Old Testament payments and sacrifices would be fulfilled in the once for all availing sacrifice of God's first and only begotten Son on the cross, the very reason this child was born.

We will hear more of this account on February 2nd, as we celebrate the Presentation of Our Lord & the Purification of Mary, forty days after we celebrated Christmas on December 25th. On that holy day, one of the ancient traditions of the Christian Church is to bless the candles used in the church's sanctuary throughout the coming year. Part of the reason for this has to do with the fact that, while the Holy Family was in the temple, a man named Simeon, who was waiting for the consolation of Israel, took the child Jesus in his arms and blessed him saying, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Jesus is the Light of the World, who scatters the darkness of our broken hearts and enlightens us with the glory of his Father.

This is why we light candles in our sanctuary. We don't do it to illuminate the room so that we can read the bulletin better, but rather, the candles, just like most of the other items in the sanctuary, are meant to teach us something about our God and Lord. His Word and Sacraments are the means by which the Holy Spirit enlightens us, forgiving us of our very dark transgressions and opening our eyes to see God's salvation in his Son, that we might "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:12). Thus, the sanctuary candles teach us that Christ is the Light of the World (John 8:12), and by receiving him in faith, we too are such a light to the world (Matthew 5:14).

Since this feast falls on a Sunday this year, we will follow the tradition of our forefathers with a blessing of the candles. By the Word of God and prayer, our candles will be set apart as a teaching tool for all of us, reminding us of God's Light, who continues to reveal himself to us. This ceremony will take place at the beginning of the Divine Service in the fellowship hall, after which the congregation will follow the processional cross into the sanctuary with lit candles in their hands, thus complimenting our celebration of Christmas with Candlemas.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller

WHY?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

What is Gesimatide?

The two major feast days in the Church Year are Christmas and Easter. These two celebrations shape and form much of what we do on a Sunday morning. Often times, we are either preparing for one of those special days or looking back on it. For example, Advent prepares us for Christmas, whereas Epiphany looks back on Christmas. On February 9th, we will complete our look-back on Christmas with the observance of our Lord's Transfiguration, which will then begin our preparations for Easter.

We prepare for our Lord's resurrection in four steps: Pre-Lent, Lent, Passiontide, and Holy Week.

On Sunday, February 16th, we began the season of Pre-Lent, also called Gesimatide. This is a time to transition our hearts and minds away from the celebration of Christmas and Epiphany and into the penitential season of Lent, our forty-day journey to Jerusalem, where we will see our Savior suffer and die and rise again.

Gesimatide gets its name from the Sundays of the season: Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima. These names give us a rough countdown until Easter. Gesima means "days," and what comes before it is a number: Septuagesima (70 days), Sexagesima (60 days), Quinquagesima (50 days). Ash Wednesday can also be called Quadragesima (40 days).

The main theme of Gesimatide is focused on the grace of God, a wonderful theme to prepare us for Lent and for the grace we will see in our Lord's passion. Septuagesima teaches us that God's grace is undeserved, as we hear of the goodness of the landowner who gives the same paycheck to all of his laborers, even if they only worked one hour (Matthew 20:1-16). Sexagesima shows us that God's grace can only be received and not earned, just as the sower's seed is received by the soil and, from it, produces a harvest a hundredfold (Luke 8:4-15). And finally on Quinquagesima, we see that God's grace is not easily understood, just as the disciples can't seem to grasp it, and yet a blind beggar from Jericho does, as he cries out to Jesus: "Son of David, have mercy on me" (Mark 10:32-34, 46-52).

The grace of God is what leads us to recognize our sin and repent of it, that we might receive such grace through his Word and Sacrament, rejoicing that our Lord who once was dead now lives.

SEPTUAGESIMA
septem = 7 | Within 70 days of Easter
* 63rd day before Easter

SEXAGESIMA
sex = 6 | Within 60 days of Easter
* 56th day before Easter

QUINQUAGESIMA
quinque = 5 | Within 50 days of Easter
* 49th day before Easter



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Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website:
www.gracefairgrove.org



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Charles Bender
- 5 Erwin Reinbold
Michael Starkey
- 12 Nicole Seeley
- 14 James Burnison
Tracey Reinbold
- 16 Noah Reinbold
- 20 Heather Reinbold
- 21 Emily Spencer
- 22 Sandy D'Addezio
- 25 Olivia Hargash
- 28 Michael Reid

February Divine Services

(services with Holy Communion)

Sunday, February 2, 2025
The Presentation of Our Lord
& Purification of Mary
Luke 2:22-32

Sunday, February 9, 2025
The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Matthew 17:1-9

Sunday, February 16, 2025
Septuagesima
Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, February 23, 2025
Sexagesima
Luke 8:4-15

NEXT VOTERS MEETING:

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025 @ 11 AM



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SHUT-IN ADDRESSES

Continue to pray for those who can't be
with us on Sunday mornings.

Jean Adams

8678 W. Deckerville Rd.
Reese, MI 48757

Don Carpenter

Tuscola County Medical Care Facility
1285 Cleaver Rd.
Caro MI 48723

John & Ruth Ann Kaijala

6004 Gilford Rd.
Fairgrove, MI 48733

Marge Montgomery

New Hope Bay
668 N Pine Road
Bay City, MI 48708

Pat Starkey

Heritage Hill
1430 Cleaver Rd.
Caro, MI 48723

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Private Confession and Absolution is available
on Saturday, February 15th, from 9 to 10 am
in the sanctuary or anytime by appointment.

CHRISTIAN TRAINING

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School

Lesson (preschool—4th grade)

Music (preschool—8th grade)

Adult Bible Study

Revelation (also 5th—8th grade)

Large Catechism

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING FOR PALM SUNDAY (April 13th)

THE MEN'S STUDY

Saturday, February 15th, 7:30 to 9 am
breakfast + prayer + the Lutheran Confessions



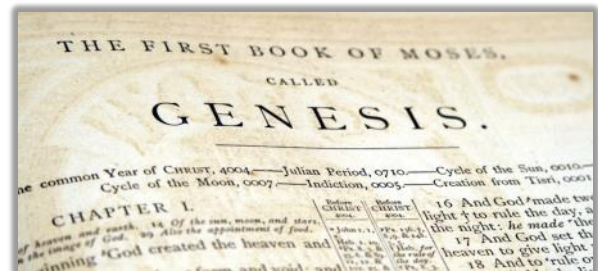
WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

9:30 am

Matins

10 am

Bible Study



JUNIOR HIGH CATECHESIS

Wednesdays, February 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, at 7 pm
Baptism and Confession & Absolution

HIGH SCHOOL CATECHESIS

Sunday, February 16th, 6 to 8 pm
at Pastor Haller's house

For let me tell you this, even though you know [God's Word] perfectly and be already master in all things, still you are daily in the dominion of the devil, who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the foregoing and all the commandments. Therefore you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware. 101 On the other hand, such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit, but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts. For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words.

—Large Catechism, Ten Commandments, 100-101

—STEWARDSHIP—

February Coffee Money Youth Trip

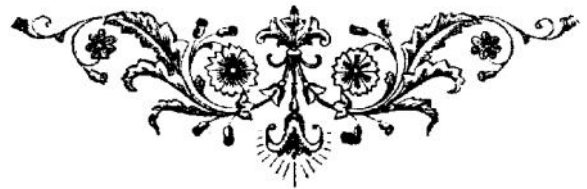
The Stewardship Board's Special Mission through the month of March will be to Orphan Grain Train. Orphan Grain Train gathers donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

For those willing to support, specific envelopes can be found on the back table of the narthex.

Orphan Grain Train ✝

—LADIES AID—

- Pam sent pictures of the flowers from our 75th Church Anniversary to Lasting Impressions, as well as a thank you.
- Our Advent meal on Wednesday, December 4th, made a profit of \$95, which will be put in our account.
- We will sponsor the next Winkel meeting on Tuesday, March 11th.
- We will sponsor the Lenten meal on March 19th.
- Next meeting is Thursday, February 6th, at 10 am.



With the legal redefinition of marriage, the confusion regarding gender, and rapidly changing sexual mores in society, biblical educators, pastors, singles, couples, and parents are looking for guidance in articulating and promoting a positive view of the Christian vision for marriage and sexuality. *Our goal is to equip people with tools to speak constructively and to live confidently amid the current confusion.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025

8:30 am Registration
9 am Matins
9:45 am Session 1
10:45 am Break
11 am Session 2
12 pm Lunch (provided)
1 pm Session 3
2 pm Break
2:30 pm Session 4
3:30 pm Q&A
3:45 pm Closing Prayers

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

7292 Kilmanagh Rd.
Pigeon, MI 48755
(989) 453-2271

ADMISSION: FREE

**SIGN UP ON THE FELLOWSHIP
HALL BULLETIN BOARD**

THE DAILY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

“God’s Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. By it all the saints have themselves been made holy. At whatever time God’s Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints.”

—Martin Luther, The Large Catechism, 91-92

February 1st	Psalm 28	Zech. 11:4-7	2 Tim. 4:1-18
February 2nd	Psalm 75	Zech.12:1-13:9	Titus 1:1-2:6
February 3rd	Psalm 47	Zech. 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15
February 4th	Psalm 127	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
February 5th	Psalm 31:1-2, 23-24	Job 2:1-3:10	John 1:19-34
February 6th	Psalm 77:1-12, 15	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
February 7th	Psalm 4	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12
February 8th	Psalm 122	Job 5:1-27	John 2:13-25
February 9th	Psalm 23:1-5	Job 6:1-13	John 3:1-21
February 10th	Psalm 38	Job 6:14-30	John 3:22-4:6
February 11th	Psalm 147:1-11	Job 7:1-21	John 4:7-26
February 12th	Psalm 99	Job 8:1-22	John 4:27-45
February 13th	Psalm 95:1-7a	Job 9:1-35	John 4:46-54
February 14th	Psalm 119:153-160	Job 10:1-22	John 5:1-18
February 15th	Psalm 1	Job 11:1-20	John 5:19-29
February 16th	Psalm 119:1-8	Job 12:1-6, 12-25	John 5:30-47
February 17th	Psalm 37:25-29	Job 13:1-12	John 6:1-21
February 18th	Psalm 105:1, 23, 37-43	Job 13:13-28	John 6:22-40
February 19th	Psalm 53	Job 14:1-22	John 6:41-59
February 20th	Psalm 16:1, 4-6, 9-11	Job 15:1-23, 30-35	John 6:60-71
February 21st	Psalm 84:1-4, 8-12	Job 16:1-22	John 7:1-13
February 22nd	Psalm 25:15-22	Job 17:1-16	John 7:14-31
February 23rd	Psalm 42:1-6a, 9-11	Job 18:1-21	John 7:32-53
February 24th	Psalm 30:1-5, 8-12	Job 19:1-12, 21-27	John 8:1-20
February 25th	Psalm 112	Job 20:1-23, 29	John 8:21-38
February 26th	Psalm 3	Job 21:1-21	John 8:39-59
February 27th	Psalm 146:5-10	Job 30:16-31	John 9:1-23
February 28th	Psalm 66:8-12, 16-20	Job 31:1-12, 33-40	John 9:24-41



VOTER'S MEETING

January 12, 2025

Aaron Reinbold opened the meeting and Pastor Haller began with a devotion from 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 and prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT ~ Mary Masker

- Roll call was taken with 29 present and 2 excused. Jason and Sarah Hall were added to the voting members.
- Minutes reviewed from October 13th voter's meeting. Motion to accept minutes by Joanne Hills and 2nd by Dan Reinbold. Motion carried and approved to accept the meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT ~ Mary Masker

- Checking account balance as of December 31, 2024 was \$20,063.92. Year end balances shown for all designated and church extension funds. All but two special missions were paid out for the year end.
- Year ending budget balances show three items for elders over budget: Worship/Office Supplies -43.40, Organist -90, Devotions -288.50. Church Properties had one item: Boiler inspection -15. Motion by Dan Reinbold and 2nd by Diane Spencer to approve the overages for Elders and Church Properties on the 2024 Budget. Motion carried and approved. Final Budget for 2024 was \$171,658.09 which was under total approved budget by \$22,116.91.

CHURCH PROPERTIES ~ Steve Reinbold

- Will be having first meeting of the year on Tuesday at 7:30pm. Will be discussing on going projects.

ELDERS ~ Joe Bublitz

- Hosted 80 in attendance for the Holy Conversations held November 9, 2024 with Pastor Weedon who also preached on November 10th for our church anniversary.
- Elders still addressing delinquent members.
- Pastor Haller and Elders discussing preparations for District Convention.
- Will be having Elder training with Pastor Haller next month.
- Each elder will be assigned to specific families for an added level of communication.

EVANGELISM AND MERCY ~ Leslie Reinbold

- The Giving Tree gifts collected were taken to Family Promise and much appreciated.
- Family Game Night will be held on Friday, January 31st from 6pm-? with soup, snacks and beverages served by the board. All are welcome along with family and friends.
- Board will be serving the March 12th Lenten dinner.
- Still researching resources to put together a new church directory.

LADIES AID ~ Diane Spencer

- Ladies Aid will be serving the March 19th Lenten dinner.
- Will be hosting an upcoming Winkle.

STEWARDSHIP ~ Joanne Hills

- January coffee money will go to Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center. February coffee money designated for the Youth and March coffee money goes to Good Samaritan Fund.
- Ash Wednesday collection stays here at Grace the Lenten midweek collections will go to St Martins School for the Deaf. The Lent Mite Boxes will go to our seminary student, Nathan Bublitz. Our 1st Quarterly Special Mission collection for January through March will go to Orphan Grain Train.

FELLOWSHIP ~ Tracey Reinbold

- October 20th, hosted Pastor Petersen with a potluck luncheon. The board provided chicken and ham, with members bringing a dish to pass.
- 75th Anniversary Dinner, the board along with other volunteers and the Reinbold family decided to take on the cooking and set up. A heartfelt thank you to all who pitched in. Donations for the dinner: Half the roast beef by Gremel Farms, Table linens by Katie Gremel, Cheesecakes by Cindy Donahue, Organic potatoes by Mike Reinbold, Water-gel beads for vases by Tonya from Lasting Impressions.

- Sunday, December 29th, fellowship provided a cake for Jesus' birthday.
- Anyone willing to give of their time and talents to help fellowship board would be welcome. Fellowship is in need of more servants.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK ~ Laura Starkey

- On November 20th, the Youth joined St. Paul's Youth in attending the movie Bonhoeffer. Discussion afterwards led by Pastor Stolarczyk and pizza at G's in Saginaw. It was great to spend time with the teens from both congregations.
- Higher Things 2025 registration is now open. Parents will need to commit no later than January 30th.
- A board meeting was held December 22nd and elected Laura Starkey as Director for 2025/2026.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Wednesday morning bible class is currently studying Genesis 9. Matins service is held at 9:30am with bible class following at 10am. Everyone is welcome.
- Sunday we will wrap up our study in Acts and review the life of Paul. Beginning in February, we will start our study in Revelations.
- 3rd Saturday Men's Study is working through the Augsburg Confession.
- We have six youth in junior high catechesis and six in high school catechesis.
- Looking for more people to sing for Propers Choir.
- Thank you for all involved with the Christmas season. Especially nice to have 20 children in the choir.
- For the Epiphany season, Pastor Haller is offering house blessings, which is an old Christian tradition. He will be offering to come to member's houses for blessings through February 9th.
- March 5th is Ash Wednesday, starting off the Lent season with midweek services up until Easter Sunday on April 20th.

OLD BUSINESS

- Kitchen Remodel – We received a quote from Zuma Contracting for \$60,000 to remodel using approximately the same footprint, without appliances. A separate quote of \$50,000 to add on an addition to the west for added storage area.
- Church Sign – this has been put in the hands of church properties board.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominations are needed for the Michigan District. Pastor Haller had a handout and made a motion to accept the listed nominations to put forth. Supported by Joanne Hills. As presented: District President: Rev. Edward Sikora, Hope Lutheran Church, Dewitt. North & East Regional Vice President: Rev. Matthew Durance, Zion Lutheran Church, Harbor Beach and Rev. Aaron Schian, Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn. District Secretary: Rev. Andrew Twietmeyer, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hillsdale. District Nominating Committee North & East Region: Ordained: Rev. Michael Boyer, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sebawaing. Commissioned: Brian Heinlein, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hemlock. Layperson: Steven Kern, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millington. Motion carried and approved.
- 5 Overtures have been written to submit to the District. These include: Closed Communion / Practice Lutheran Confessions / Discourage use of hired staff for visitations / Publication of the Council of Presidents Manual. Joe Bublitz made a motion with Dan Reinbold 2nd to support all overtures to be submitted. Motion carried and approved.

Next Parish Planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18th at 7pm.

Nest Voter's meeting will be held April 13th at 11am after church and fellowship.

Motion to adjourn made by Dan Reinbold and 2nd by Diane Spencer.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and singing of the Doxology.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Mary Masker,
Secretary/Treasurer

FEBRUARY 2025

Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703

Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Elders of the Month: Daniel Bublitz (989) 392-7805 & Joseph Bublitz (989) 528-9120

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>The Presentation of Our Lord & the Purification of Mary</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	3	4 7 pm Elders	5 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	6 10 am Ladies Aid	7 Pastor's Day Off	8
9 <i>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	10	11 9 am Quilters 7 pm Properties	12 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	13	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
16 <i>Septuagesima</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study 6 to 8 pm H.S. Catechesis	17	18	19 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	20	21 Pastor's Day Off	22 <i>In His Image Conference</i> at St. Paul--Pigeon
23 <i>Sexagesima</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	24 <i>St. Matthias, Apostle</i>	25 9 am Quilters	26 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	27	28 Pastor's Day Off	

Serving Our Lord in the Month of February

Elders for February

Daniel Bublitz & Joseph Bublitz

Ladies Aid for February

Joanne Hills & Pamela Ill

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Refreshments: Chelsea Worden, Jennifer Bender, Ashley Bublitz

Propers Choir: Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Rienbold, Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

Acolytes: Brandt LaPouttre, Hunter Reid, Erwin Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Ashley Bublitz

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Steven Reinbold

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Refreshments: Sandy D'Addezio, Joyce Dickson, Ann Emery

Propers Choir: Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

Acolyte: Winston Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Chelsea Worden

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Jennifer Bender

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Refreshments: Sarah Hall, Hannah Haller, Renee Hecht

Propers Choir: Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre

Bible Study Babysitter: Julia Hargash & Isabella Reinbold

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Nicole Seeley

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Refreshments: Joanne Hills, Beth Hoppe, Pamela Ill

Propers Choir: Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

Acolyte: Wayne Seeley

Bible Study Babysitter: Jennifer Bender

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Hannah Haller

**If your name is not on the refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office.

**If you're not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call someone to replace you.

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

—Psalm 84:10