

The Messenger

February 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
503 S. STATE STREET
CARO, MICHIGAN 48723

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE
CLASSES AT 9:45 A.M.
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

STUDY the Word
SEEK the lost
SERVE all people
SHARE our gifts
In JESUS' name.

...St. Paul Lutheran Church

God is Love

God loves you as if you were the only one in the world to love. And he loves everybody the way he loves you.

-St. Augustine

Our food supply for Helping Hands is completely gone. If you could find it in your heart to help refill it, it would be appreciated. Cans with flip tops and boxes of cereal or other ready to eat items are most helpful but all non-perishable items are appreciated. We get so many people that need some food. Please place items in the box under the table in the Narthex.

The February issue of
The Messenger is sponsored by
Larry & Bonnie Creutz
in celebration of
Their 55th Anniversary.

FACTS & FIGURES

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
12/31/23 & 1/3/24	Worship Services	67 + 13 = 80	\$348.00
12/31/23	New Years Eve - Evening	36	\$474.00
1/7/24 & 1/10/24	Worship Services	69 + 71 + 19 = 159	\$6,379.00
1/14/24 & 1/17/24	Worship Services	46 + 60 + 15 = 121	\$4,988.00
1/21/24 & 1/24/24	Worship Services	64 + 57 + 15 = 136	\$5,521.00
Needed each week			\$8,642.37

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the March 2024 issue of *The Messenger* is: **Monday, February 19 at 12:00 (noon)**

Articles may be emailed to **lynn@stpaulcaro.org** or put in Secretary mailbox



Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Ed Elmy**. Ed was born on June 27, 1953 to Edward and Dorothy (Sutherland) Elmy. He was married to Karen on December 10, 1986. He died on January 10, 2024 at age 70.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Betty Norrington**. Betty was born on December 2, 1928 to Paul and Marie (Trischler) Dost. She was married to Wilbur Norrington on March 13, 1948. She died on January 12, 2024 at age 95.

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN DRAWING

The winner for the Children's Bulletin Drawing for December is **Isla B**. Isla, you can either pick up your prize at the church office M-F, 8:30-4:30, or you can tell myself (Lynn), or Pastor, or one of the Elders on Sunday and they can let you choose a prize from the prize box. The winner for January will be announced in the first Sunday bulletin in February and in the March newsletter.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Week of February 4, 2024

Philippians 2:5–11 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Week of February 11, 2024

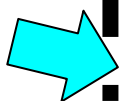
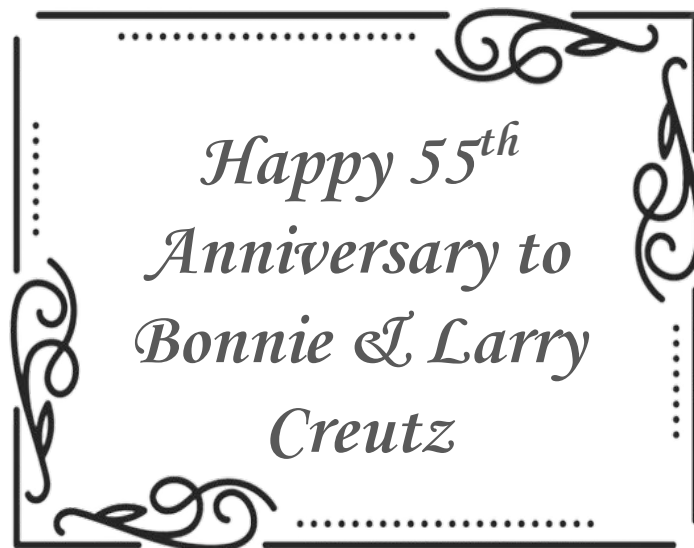
Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Week of February 18, 2024

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Week of February 25, 2024

Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?



*****ATTENTION:*****

The very last page of The Messenger this month can be taken off and folded into a program so that you can have it whenever you may need it.



NEWSLETTER SPONSORS FOR 2024

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for a month, please see or call Lynn in the office at 989-673-4214. The cost is only \$25 per month. The money for the sponsorship will be used for the gifts for the Children's Bulletin Drawing and to supply the youth with the subscription for their quarterly devotion books when our current sponsor is done.

St. Paul Youth in the News

2023 HURON COUNTY FOOTBALL *Dream Team* FIRST TEAM DEFENSE



Kameron Schlund



BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Children in foster care need supportive adults to provide loving homes until they can be safely reunited with their family. A loving foster family can help a child cope with separation and make sure they have opportunities to be a kid. If you would like more information about opening your heart and your home to a child or teen in need, please call **1-855-MICKIDS** to talk to one of our live representatives. You can also go to our website **Michigan.gov/HopeForAHome** to find out more.



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hings of worth—the transcendental.

Thank you to the congregation. We raised \$772 from the paper ornament drive for the Food Band of Eastern Michigan. This money will go to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Caro.

~Vicki Reinbold

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – February 2024

DOROTHEA BENTHIEN CRÄMER

Dorothea Benthien, from Achim near Bremen, was in her mid-twenties when she caught the attention of Pastor August Crämer. Dorothea was among a group of Lutherans who were on their way to Fort Wayne, Ind., when an outbreak of fever on the ship led her to selflessly care for the sick, even at personal risk and despite having a child of her own. It was suggested to Pastor Crämer that she would make a good wife, but he thought it proper to put her to the test first. He challenged her as to whether she would be willing to join him and his group of Franconian colonists as a missionary helper to the Indians. She agreed, and Crämer decided to marry her as soon as the ship docked in New York – which he did on June 10, 1845!



“Mother Crämer,” as she was called by the Native Americans of the Bethany Indian Mission and later by the seminarians, worked shoulder to shoulder with her gifted husband at Frankenmuth, Fort Wayne, St. Louis and Springfield. She consistently served the students of the seminary and cared deeply for her husband and children. In the face of cholera outbreaks in Springfield in the 1880s, she bravely cared for both her immediate and extended family. However, after the deaths of several children and grandchildren, she herself succumbed on November 11, 1884, aged 67. This faithful servant of Christ had helped ensure that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod would have sufficient pastors for the proclamation

of the Word and the administration of the sacraments according to Christ’s institution.

Dorothea Benthien Crämer characterizes the selflessness of the women who helped found the Missouri Synod. She served quietly out of gratefulness to God for His grace and mercy given freely through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Moreover, she shared the Gospel of Christ with her missionary husband in word and in deed as Jesus enabled her. We, who have her as an example of the response of faith to the mercy of God in Christ, are deeply thankful that God shared this wonderful gift with the people of our Synod.



Wednesday, 2/14/24:
5:30 PM - Meal sponsored by
Youth Ministry
7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Service

Midweek of Lent 1
Wednesday, 2/21/24:
5:30 PM - Meal sponsored by
Quilters
7:00 PM - Lenten Service

Midweek of Lent 2
Wednesday, 2/28/24:
5:30 PM - Meal sponsored by
Ushers
7:00 PM - Lenten Service

Midweek of Lent 3
Wednesday, 3/6/24:
5:30 PM - Meal sponsored by
LWML
7:00 PM - Lenten Service

Midweek of Lent 4
Wednesday, 3/13/24:
5:30 PM - Meal sponsored by
Choir
7:00 PM - Lenten Service

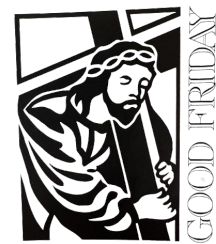
Midweek of Lent 5
Wednesday, 3/20/24:
5:30 PM - Meal sponsored by
Margaret LaValley
7:00 PM - Lenten Service



Palm Sunday
Sunday, 3/24/24:
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



Maundy Thursday
Thursday, 3/28/24:
7:00 PM



Good Friday
Friday, 3/29/24:
1:30 PM



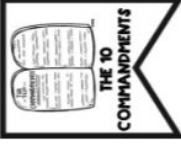



Easter Sunday
Sunday, 3/31/24:
7:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Let's read through the entire Bible in one year!

Are you enjoying this reading plan?

If you accidentally miss a day, just double up the next day. Here is the plan for February.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Chr = Chronicles Ex = Exodus	Num = Numbers Lev = Leviticus			1 Exodus 1-4:17, 1 Chr. 6:1-3,	2 Ex. 4:18-7:13	3 Ex. 7:14-9:35
4 Ex. 10-12	5 Ex. 13-15	6 Ex. 16-19	7 Ex. 20-22:15	8 Ex. 22:16-24:18	9 Ex. 25-28	10 Ex. 29-31
11 Ex. 32-34	12 Ex. 35-36	13 Ex. 37-39:31	14 Ex. 39:32-40:38, Numbers 9:15-23	15 Numbers 7	16 Num. 8-9:14, Leviticus 1-3	17 Lev. 4-6
18 Lev. 7-8	19 Lev. 9-11	20 Lev. 12-14:32	21 Lev. 14:33-16:34	22 Lev. 17-19	23 Lev. 20-22	24 Lev. 23-25:23
25 Lev. 25:24-26:46	26 Lev. 27 Num. 1	27 Num. 2-3	28 Num. 4-5	29 Happy Leap Day		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

God's Blessings as you celebrate your special day!

February 1

David Carpenter
Trent Grice
Griffin Lester

February 2

Linda Bates
Greg Morris
Bill Gage

February 3

Vicky Ewald
Michele Singer
Jolene Walker

February 4

Jay T. Hecht

February 5

Doris DeRocco
Margaret LaValley
Brice Temerowskil

February 6

Penny Adams

February 7

Penny Curtis
Marjorie Duncanson
Rick Odorico
Darcy Tenbusch

February 9

James Miller
Heather Sprague

February 10

Mimi Galsterer
Lisa Graf
Lora McKellar

February 11

Jamie LeBlanc
Ann Sattelberg
Marissa Stec

February 12

Nathaniel Turner
Cara Fisch

February 13

Eric Bitzer
Mike Flintoft
Klara Tenbusch

February 16

Robert Eremia Jr.
Keith Ewald
Madelyn Neuman

February 17

Judy Mohr

February 19

Faith Lorf

February 20

Trinity Souva

February 22

Maureen King
Thomas Meyer
Savannah Retzler

February 25

Fred Yonke
Shannon Hecht
Garth Robert Vaughan

February 27

Jason Daniels
Troy Hiser

February 28


Barb Carter
Dwain Ewald
Alexis Novelli



St. Paul Lutheran Church
 503 S. State St. Caro, MI 48723
 Phone: 989-673-4214
 Web: www.stpaulcaro.org

February 2024

Pastor: Cameron K. Steele
 Home: 989-673-2516
 Cell: 989-550-3355
 Email: RevCameron.Steele@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers: Brian Holmes Marci LaValley Mitzi LaValley Jay Hecht Richard Cherniawski Scott Hadaway	Prayer Chain: Church Office: 673-4214 lynn@stpaulcaro.org	Flower Chair: Michele Singer 989-550-5556		1	2 The Presentation of Our Lord	3
4 Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School / Bible Class 11:00 Traditional with Holy Communion 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	5 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells Practice	6 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:30 Brd of Elders	7 7:00 Worship Service	8	9	10
11 The Transfiguration of our Lord 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School / Bible Class 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Communion 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	12 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells Practice	13 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	14 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Advent Meal - Youth Ministry 7:00 Lenten Worship Service	15	16	17
18 First Sunday in Lent 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School / Bible Class 11:00 Traditional with Holy Communion 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	19 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells Practice	20 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:00 LWML 7:00 Altar Guild 7:00 Stephen Min.	21 Midweek of Lent 1 5:30 Advent Meal - Quilters 7:00 Lenten Worship Service	22	Elders: Eric Bitzer 550-0297 Bob Eremia 810-691-1302 Kent Graf 673-5496 David Hoard 550-2969 Jamie LeBlanc 545-2131 Bill McQueen 598-0444 Bob Smith 325-1038 Garrett Tetil 670-6221 Brian Voss 286-1461 John Weidman 550-4764	
25 Second Sunday in Lent 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School / Bible Class 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Communion 11:00 SS kids sing Feb. Song of the Month 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	26 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells Practice	27 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	28 Midweek of Lent 2 5:30 Advent Meal - Ushers 7:00 Lenten Worship Service	29		

attends us at the death of our beloved pet and give us confidence that at the restoration of all things we will experience the unfettered joy of Your good creation as You intended it from the beginning. We thank you for the joy and companionship this animal has brought to our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: Even our hymnody can guide us toward a proper perspective:

811 Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices (may be sung or spoken)

1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my
 4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, That throng the
 God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 earth, the sea, the sky, Come, share with me my heart's de -
 joy - es, Would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -
 vo - tion, Help me to sing God's pris - es high. My ut - most
 ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.
 pow'rs can nev - er quite De - clare the won - ders of His might.

Lyrics © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LHM Hymn License no. 110002422
 Tune: Public Domain

PRAYER (Family members who wish to may thank God for specific joys that this dear pet has brought to their lives)

SUMMARY:

While we can't say with certainty that a creature matching our beloved pet's description will come running should we call his/her name in Paradise, we have every confidence that heaven will be filled with such faithful friends. What's more, when this corrupt and dying world is restored on the Last Day, it will reveal to us the true splendor of a God who loves beyond measure and who, even in the midst of this broken world, permitted that love to poke through for our family in such an amazing creature as our beloved pet.

Adapted from "Sabbath: A Journal for the Contemporary" Core of Soul" Volume 7, 2021, Part 4.8. Published by DDBBDOLOGY The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel.

AT THE DEATH OF A PET

The care we provide for our pets and the joy we receive from them are an acknowledgement both of God's good creation and of our calling to be stewards of all that he has given us (Gen. 1:26). The death of a beloved pet often produces intense sorrow. In their own ways, these creatures become an integral part of our lives, providing companionship and joy. We should acknowledge these blessings that God provides through our pets. Even in this sad time, it is important that as we mourn, we keep a proper perspective—namely, that our special companions from the animal kingdom, while near and dear to us, can never be equated with humanity. Though the Scriptures give no promises concerning the status of our pets at the Last Day, we can look forward to the purification and restoration of creation with the confidence that God's "new heaven and new earth" (Rev. 21:1) will bring even more joy and mirth than what He has permitted us to experience in this life.

The family gathers. This can be done in remembrance at a later time, over the body of the dear pet, or at the grave. Each may take a turn reading from this service as they desire to do.

SCRIPTURE: Passages of Scripture appropriate for the occasion might include these:

- Psalm 104:1, 10-13, 24-28 (The earth is full of God's creatures.)

- [1] Bless the LORD, O my soul!
 O LORD my God, you are very great!
 You are clothed with splendor and majesty, ...
- [10] You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
 they flow between the hills;
 [11] they give drink to every beast of the field;
 the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
- [12] Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
 they sing among the branches.
- [13] From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
 the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work...
- [24] O LORD, how manifold are your works!
 In wisdom have you made them all;
 the earth is full of your creatures.
- [25] Here is the sea, great and wide,
 which teems with creatures innumerable,
 living things both small and great.
- [26] There go the ships,

and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.

[27] These all look to you,

to give them their food in due season.

[28] When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

• **Psalms 148:7-14** (*All of God's creation sings His praise.*)

[7] Praise the LORD from the earth,

you great sea creatures and all deeps,

[8] fire and hail, snow and mist,

stormy wind fulfilling his word!

[9] Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

[10] Beasts and all livestock,

creeping things and flying birds!

[11] Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

[12] Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!

[13] Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is exalted;

his majesty is above earth and heaven.

[14] He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his saints,

for the people of Israel who are near to him.

Praise the LORD!

• **Genesis 1:20-25** (*God creates the animals.*)

[20] And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." [21] So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. [22] And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." [23] And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

[24] And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. [25] And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

• **Romans 8: 18—22** (*The whole creation groans, eagerly awaiting its restoration.*)

[18] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

[19] For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. [20] For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. [22] For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

• **Luke 12:4-7** (*The God who watches over the sparrows will watch over you.*)

[4] "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. [5] But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! [6] Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. [7] Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

REMEMBRANCES (*Those who wish to may recall a specific memory or episode during the life of this pet that brought joy.*)

PRAYER: Among the many prayers that would be fitting at the death of a pet is the following:

Almighty God, by mankind's fall into sin, the whole creation groans under the sentence of death. Dispel the pain and sorrow that