

The Messenger

a monthly newsletter



February 2025



St. Paul Lutheran Church
100 Luther Blvd
Albion, MI 49224
517-629-8379
www.stpaulalbion.org
e-mail: office@stpaulalbion.org

Church Staff

Paul Koehn, Pastor
pastor@stpaulalbion.org
Emergency/Parsonage: 517-629-5040
Barbara Slaughter, Church Secretary
bslaughter@stpaulalbion.org
Dagmar McKinney, Church Secretary
dmckinney@stpaulalbion.org

Ron Di Salvio, Music Director
Joie Eddy, Kid-to-Kid Shop Coordinator
Barbara Slaughter, Bookkeeper

Church Office Hours

Monday–Friday 10:00am–3:00pm
May be closed for lunch 12:30–1:30pm



Find us on
Facebook @StPaulAlbion



Kid to Kid Shop

Open Saturdays
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(not on holiday weekends)



Gently used, clean kids clothes sizes 0-16
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 100 Luther Blvd, Albion

We accept donations of good, clean, children's items.
Thursdays 9-11am, & Saturdays 10am-2pm.

Office hours may vary, please call the
office at 517-629-8379 to make sure
we're open before you come in.

Thank you!



*"Jesus said,
'Let the children come to me.'"
Matthew 19:14*

Little Lambs of Jesus Preschool & Childcare Center

615 S. Dalrymple St.
Albion, MI 49224
517-629-7699
e-mail: littlelambssofjesus@outlook.com


Amber Perry, Director
Jenny Woods, Asst. Director



Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



February Birthdays	
1	Roger Weston
3	Becky Ericson
5	James Hull
7	Chuck Miller
11	Candie Boehlke-Nash
13	Donna Shelton, Diane Shuster
14	Michelle Slaughter
15	Ashlee Tanner
16	Michele Miller
19	Oromia Milkessa
20	Gavin Tanner
24	Mercedes Perry
25	Rose Hickey
27	Cheryl Zick



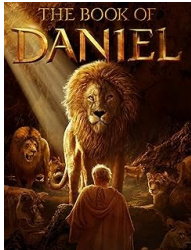
February Anniversaries	
14	Mark & Kathleen Oerther
	Jim Nash & Candie Boehlke-Nash
28	Harry & Dawn Martin

February Events



February 1,8,15,22	Kid-to-Kid Shop
February 2,16	J.A.M. (during 10:30am service)
February 4,11,18,25	Tuesday Bible Study
February 6,13,20,27	Prayer Time
February 8	Saturday Life Worship
February 9	Sub Orders Due
February 10	Stewardship & Outreach Meeting
February 16	Voters' Assembly
	Family Fun Time in the gym
February 19,20,21,23	Sub Pickup
February 20	Newsletter Deadline

Articles, ads & information for the March issue of *The Messenger* are due at the church office no later than February 21.



Tuesday Bible Study
Book of Daniel DVD & Discussion
 Tuesdays at 9:30 am, In the Living Room
 Open to everyone! Invite your friends!



The **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is the 20th of each month. Please turn in your items by then so we have plenty of time to get the newsletter ready to print. Thank you for your consideration!!!

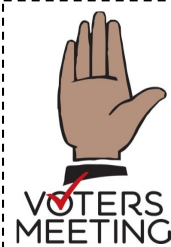


Financial Statements for 2024 are available at the back of the church. Please pick yours up today.

RIGHTNOWMEDIA – free to you and whoever you care to share it with! Like a “**Christian Netflix**”, it is filled with material to entertain and instruct children, youth, and adults in matters of faith. You set it up through your own email account. Please let us know at the office if you need assistance, but be sure to check it out – fliers with URL codes are available in the back of church.



SATURDAY LIFE Worship
 Second Saturday of the month
 February 8, 5:00 pm
 Once a month, on the second Saturday, join us in the Living Room for worship, the Word, and the Sacrament/Holy Communion. This is a kid-friendly 45-50 minute time of faith building.



Voters' Assembly
Sunday, February 16, 2025
9:10 a.m. (between services)
Snacks provided
 Join us for this meeting where we will vote on the 2025 Budget and other important matters.

If you can't/aren't making it to church on Sundays, please consider this invitation to worship with us!

All confirmed members of St. Paul may attend. Information packets will be available in the narthex.

Changing to the 2nd Saturday of each month.

From the Pastor

A "Hearty" Greeting of Love and Peace to you from God, our Father!

Here we are on February's doorstep, and after the Christmas decorations have been put away, out come the ones for Valentine's Day! That day has an interesting history going way back to the days of the ancient Roman Empire and a man who offered his life to help the hurting. In this particular case, it was persecuted Christians. Emperor Claudius II had Valentine imprisoned and then executed. He willingly gave up his life for the love of others and his faith in Jesus.

Can we emulate his life and actions? Interestingly, they parallel Jesus' life and actions. Those who are called "Christians" should be imitating Jesus' life and actions. People who are truly followers of Jesus reflect Him in their living, giving, speaking, serving, and, in particular, through their **WORSHIP**.

Let's define LOVE for February and consider the appropriate expression of "worship."

Love is a Biblical word! "God is love"! – I John 4:8 Love is not "God". We don't worship love, but we do worship a loving God. Love, demonstrated by God, has three major characteristics: 1) It is giving - it is not self-serving. "God so loved the world that He gave . . ." (Jn. 3:16). 2) It is forgiving – it doesn't hold grudges. "God showed His love for us in that while we were yet sinners . . ." (Rom. 5:8). 3) It is committed – it doesn't quit. "Love never fails . . ." (I Cor. 13:8). "His love endures forever" (found many places in the Bible, especially in Ps. 136). "Nothing . . . can separate us from the love of God . . ." (Rom. 8:39). And all that love and that kind of love is embodied (literally!) in Jesus and His ultimate death for us and glorious resurrection, promising us life eternal!

Are you that kind of "loving person"? An old Christian folk song from the 1970s has the chorus, "And they'll know we are Christians by our love". Jesus said, "By this, all will know that you are My disciples (followers) if you love one another." (John 13:35)

One of the best evidence of love from above working in our lives is reflected in our worship. We love our spouses, our parents, our children, our grandchildren, but we don't worship them. That would be "idolatry". "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him only shall you serve" – Jesus in Matthew 4:10, quoting the Old Testament. Love in worship is evidence of "devotion" – the highest devotion, a willingness to sacrifice – time, money, energy, and even life.

As we come to know God's love in Jesus in greater fulness, we will worship Him. We will sing His praise, speak to Him in prayer, and listen to Him in His Word, the Bible. We will be conscious of Him and seek to know His will so as to do it. A lot of that type of worship takes place in church! Are you there? Do you really love God if you don't keep His commandments, like "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy"? Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments."

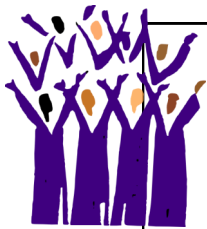
We love because He first loved us! Oh, how great is the love of God the Father that we should be called children of God! Like Father, like son and daughter . . . think about it! And grow in love!



Peace and love in Jesus + Pastor Paul Koehn



UNTHINKABLE – Please get in touch with your local movie theater(s) and ask them to show this movie, UNTHINKABLE, produced by Abby Johnson/**And Then There Were None**, about abortion clinic workers leaving the industry and exposing the atrocities of Planned Parenthood. This can be your/our small but significant part in ending the shedding of innocent blood in the USA!



Join St. Paul's Contemporary Choir

The Choir rehearsals are Sundays, 9:30-10:10 am, In the Sanctuary
Featuring new music by our Director.

We welcome all who love to lift their voice unto the Lord!



Orphan Grain Train in Sebawaing, Michigan, brings the name of our loving Savior, Jesus Christ, to those in need by distributing clothing, quilts, medical supplies, hygiene products, and food. They have sent shipments all over the world. Countries such as Panama, Lithuania, and Ukraine receive supplies, as well as the United States. Most recently, they shipped to places devastated by Hurricane Helene. Funding for OGT is essential in assisting with shipping costs. The average shipping price is \$9,000. With this Mission Grant, OGT can continue to ship supplies and spread the gospel to those in need overseas and domestically.

Your mite box offering is put to good use in helping our #2 mission grant of \$18,000 succeed in spreading God's love throughout the state and the world.

Blessings in Christ, Renita Wollberg,
Battle Creek Zone President





News from the Little Lambs of Jesus Preschool & Childcare Center

Greetings from the Center:

Back in the swing of preschool in 2025! Break was great, but now we need to get the kids back in the habit of following directions, sitting still, etc. I believe they had a bit too much electronic time over the holidays. While working on skills, we are also learning about winter, winter animals, snow, and ice. They were quite surprised when I asked them the color of a polar bear. Of course, they said, "white". They are actually black-skinned with a translucent like fur that gives the appearance of white/pale yellow. Learned something, didn't ya?



We have openings in our 2-1/2 to 5-year-old rooms. We have had some kids move away, and that hurts us financially for sure. Working on budgets is always fun when it can change in a heartbeat!

We will be having a Sub Sale. Look for the ad in this newsletter. We are also having our annual sale in early May. Clean those closets, toys, garages, books, etc, and DONATE them for us to earn some much-needed cash! More info on drop-off and sale dates will be in the March newsletter.



We came back from break to a cold building. We needed to replace a furnace. It was about 25 years old, so it was time. A very special shout of appreciation to Mike Slaughter, who took my early morning call and had Barbour Heating up here within the hour. We had really good service provided to us, and we sure were thankful when the new furnace was brought here from Lansing and installed by noon **THAT DAY!**

We are always looking for ways to improve our service and our outreach. Pray for our efforts. We all know that God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.

In Christ, Jenny



**CLEAN YOUR CLOSETS!
TACKLE THE GARAGE!
EMPTY YOUR CUPBOARDS!**

**The Annual Sale will be
in May 2025**

Donate your gently used clothing, dishes, household items, and furniture. More info to come.

Little Lambs of Jesus SUB SANDWICH SALE Fundraiser



COST: \$3.75 per sub. Subs are approximately 6" long.

CHOICES: *Club (roast beef, turkey, ham) *Turkey, *Ham, *3 Meat (ham, salami, bologna)

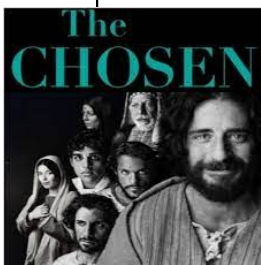
All on **WHITE** bread.

All subs come with American and provolone cheese and are packaged ready to freeze. Condiments not included.

ORDER by February 9, at the back of the church, after Life Worship, or call the Church office.

PICKUP: Subs will be ready for pickup at St Paul on Wednesday, February 19, at 3-5:00pm, Thursday or Friday during office hours, or Sunday after services.

Place your order today!



The **CHOSEN** Seasons 1, 2, 3, & 4 DVDs

Are available from our Library.

Anyone may check them out. Please record your name and date on the sign-out sheet and return as soon as you are through so someone else may enjoy them.

J.A.M.

**Jesus
and
Me**

J.A.M. (*Jesus and Me*) February 2 & 16, 2025

During the 10:30 am service sermon

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, the children go to another room to hear a message of their own, crafts, and snacks.



We are **looking for volunteers** to help out with J.A.M. Even if you can only do it once a year, it would make a big difference and lighten the load for all of our volunteers. Please let the office know if you can help out.

Please pick up your 2025 offering envelopes at the back of the church.



Family Fun Time February 16, 2025 After 10:30am church until 1pm

Join us for this monthly event after church! Lunch is provided with fun in the gym to follow!

We ask that at least 1 adult accompany their kids from each family. Thank you!



Roving Reporter

As of this writing, winter has arrived in Albion. It's cold today with more to come this week. Stay warm; spring is on its way!

The Church looks so bare now that the Christmas decorations are down. Thanks to everyone who helped decorate and helped take them down.

Saturday Life Worship is moving to the SECOND Saturday of the month starting February 8th. Some people thought it would work better for them. If you can't/aren't making it to church on Sundays, please consider this invitation to worship with us on Saturdays. Everyone is welcome!!

We have finished watching *The CHOSEN* at our Bible Study on Tuesday mornings. On February 4th, we will be starting a new DVD and discussion on **the Book of Daniel**. Please join us; all are welcome!

Our Little Lambs of Jesus is having the **Sub Sale** again this year. Orders are due on February 9th. See the ad in this newsletter and the Sunday Bulletin Insert for more info.

Little Lambs will also be holding their **Annual Sale** here at St. Paul in May. Clean your closets and bring your good, used stuff to us. More information will be in the March newsletter.

New Puzzles are in the library; take one home. They will help make these long winter days go by faster.

The Free Table—there are a lot of nice items on the table in Luther Hall. Calendars, birthday cards, note pads, and many more, take a look!

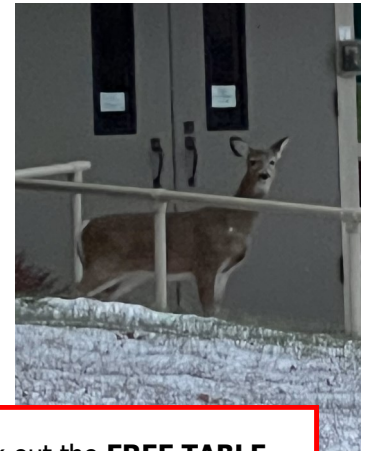
The Neighborhood Wellness Center, in the Washington Gardner School on Michigan Ave, is open Monday and Wednesday, 12:00 pm –7:00 pm, and Fridays from 9:00 am—5:00 pm. Free blood pressure screenings, cholesterol screenings, diabetes screenings, community health worker service, COVID-19, and flu testing. No appointment, no ID or insurance required. It's free!

The February Voters' Assembly will be in Luther Hall on Sunday, February 16th, 9:10 am. Please plan to attend. It is budget time again.

Watch the Sunday Bulletin Insert for new information on upcoming events at St. Paul.

Look at the visitor we had at our Luther Hall door last week!! The world is full of wonders!

Stay warm! Please remember to pray for Pastor, the sick and shut-ins.



Lucy



BORROW A PUZZLE

The Church Library has a selection of winter puzzles for you to borrow.

Take some home today!

I ♥ Free Stuff

Check out the **FREE TABLE** in Luther Hall. It has many items, including birthday cards, 2025 calendars, and more!

COVID-19 Tests available!

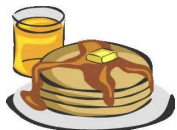


Come to the
Community Table of Albion (CTA)
to receive FREE food
2nd, 3rd, or 4th Tuesday of the month,
3:00 p.m. until gone.

We are located behind Albion College
Wesley Hall (enter through the marked
gate on Bidwell Street.)

American Legion Post 55 Pancake Brunch

Sunday, February 23, 2025
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Adults \$9.00
Children 6-12 \$6.00—5 & under free



Network Family Church Food Pantry

13600—28 Mile Rd, Albion
The **FIRST TUESDAY** of each month
3:30-5:00pm.
Please tell all your friends!



Annual Men Who Cook Citizens to Beautify Albion fundraising event

Sunday, February 9, 2025
12 p.m.—2 p.m.

First Baptist Church
980 Haven Rd., Albion, MI

Volunteer Cooks Are Needed. They are looking for gentlemen of all ages to bring a cooked dish from home and serve it to the Albion community.

Please contact Shantella Stemaly, shermanshantella@gmail.com.



Prayer List: Updated January 28, 2025

Homebound

Ginette Burlingame
Alice Bush
Ruth Bussing
Shirley Claucherty
John Geyer
Don Hickey
James Hull
Leona Kissinger
Charles Krenerick
Dolores Manthei
Jim Nash
Lorraine Posenke
Carolyn Rimer
Keith Swathwood
Ray Zick



Public Servants

Lindsey Bergeron-Anderla (wife of Michael Anderla)
Joshua Boel (son-in-law of Pastor & LoriRene')
Eric Clark
Sarah Duff (daughter of Dale & Lori Duff)
Rob Lightfoot (grandson of Cliff & Alice Bush)
Miranda Seedo
Jacob Sommer (grandson of Jean Sommer)
Terrel "Dion" Williams (nephew of Lou & Annette Lerma)
Jeremy Woods

Sick and Injured

Susan Abbee (sister of Steve Abbee)
Amy (niece of Phyllis Hoffman)
Terry Anderla
Barbara Benavidez (friend of Bob Porter)
Jennifer Dryer (friend of Alice Wochholz & Dawn Hernandez)
Melissa Chittick (wife of Rev. Aaron Chittick,
pastor of St. Paul Coldwater)
Bud Fox
Rev. William Gatz (father of Bill Gatz)
Linda Geyer (former member of St. Paul)
Donnie Hirst (friend of Diane Shuster)
Jim Hunt
Lois (cousin of Phyllis Hoffman)
Phil Mason
Christiana Matthews (sister of Jim Nash)
Paula Miller
Dave O'Dell (nephew of Alice Wochholz)
Kent Phillips
Maycee Roberts (friend of Jo Hess)
Tyler Smith (grandson of Bill & Lois Haeske)
Russell Spanninga
Ilene Stroebel (aunt of Amy Zerbe).
Phillip Sumption (husband of Joan Sumption)
Robert Weston (brother of Roger Weston)
Jim Wilson
Vickie Yankee
Trevor Young (friend of Tom Zander)



Our heartfelt sympathy to the families of:

Geraldine Remington, friend of Carolyn Fox
who passed away on August 14th.

Juanita Siefert who passed away
on November 22nd.

Jerry Bussing, former member of St. Paul and
husband of Little Lambs' employee Barbara Bussing
who passed away on December 21st.

Bruce Young, family of Dawn Hernandez
and former member of St. Paul
who passed away on December 27th.

Richard Wise, friend of Chuck & Ella Larder.

Jackie Ringle, aunt of Tim Paugh
who passed away on December 29th.

Jim Manthei who passed away on January 2nd.

Judy Calderone, friend of Gloria Hunt
who passed away on January 6th.

Our prayers are with you in your time of sorrow.



James L. Manthei
July 1, 1935—January 2, 2025

James Leland Manthei, age 89, of Albion, Michigan, passed on January 2, 2025. He was born July 1, 1935, in Parma, Michigan to Paul and Thelma (Hubbel) Manthei.

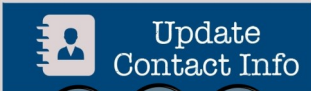
Jim was a quiet man who loved woodworking, building furniture, collecting trains, and camping. He would do anything for his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. With just a phone call, Jim was there to help. He was also a faithful member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Albion, Michigan.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Dolores (Rumsey) Manthei; sons, John (Janet) Manthei, Tom (Robin) Manthei; daughter-in-law, Helen Manthei; stepchildren, Dana (Terry) Anderla, Dawn Hawks, Dagmar (David) McKinney, Diana (Robert) Siscoe; brother, Paul (Judy) Manthei, as well as, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jim is preceded in death by his first wife, Beverly Manthei; sons, James Manthei, Jr. and Michael Manthei; stepchildren, Deborah and James Herwarth and David Hurdelbrink; brothers, Robert Manthei, Richard Manthei, Gerald Manthei; and sister, Pauline Ruppel.

Memorials can be made in Jim's memory to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

See the full obituary on the Luther Hall lobby bulletin board.



Friendly reminder—






Please let the church office know when your contact information changes (address, phone number, or email)

February

2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church

100 Luther Blvd., Albion, MI 49224 517-629-8379
 www.stpaulalbion.org e-mail: office@stpaulalbion.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 GREEN-4th aft Epiphany 8:15am Life Worship 9:10am Bible Study 10:30am Holy Communion & J.A.M.</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> 	<p>3 8:30am Morning Walkers</p>	<p>4 8:30am Morning Walkers 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study</p>	<p>5 8:30am Morning Walkers</p>	<p>6 8:30am Morning Walkers Prayer Time: 9:15am & 12:15pm</p>	<p>7 8:30am Morning Walkers</p>	<p>8 10am-2pm Kid-to-Kid Shop 5pm Saturday Life Worship</p>
<p>9 Transfiguration Our Lord 8:15am Life Worship 9:10am Bible Study 10:30am Holy Communion</p> <p>Sub Orders Due</p> 	<p>10 8:30am Morning Walkers 3:00pm Stewardship & Outreach Mtg.</p>	<p>11 8:30am Morning Walkers 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study</p>	<p>12 8:30am Morning Walkers</p>	<p>13 8:30am Morning Walkers Prayer Time: 9:15am & 12:15pm</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day 8:30am Morning Walkers</p>	<p>15 10am-2pm Kid-to-Kid Shop</p>
<p>16 GREEN-6th aft Epiphany 8:15am Life Worship 9:10am Voters' Assembly 10:30am Worship/J.A.M. 11:30am Family Fun Time</p>	<p>17 Presidents Day 8:30am Morning Walkers</p> 	<p>18 8:30am Morning Walkers 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study</p>	<p>19 8:30am Morning Walkers 3-5pm Sub Pickup</p>	<p>20 8:30am Morning Walkers Prayer Time: 9:15am & 12:15pm 9am-4:30pm Sub Pickup</p> 	<p>21 8:30am Morning Walkers 9am-12pm Sub Pickup</p>	<p>22 10am-2pm Kid-to-Kid Shop</p>
<p>23 GREEN-7th aft Epiphany 8:15am Life Worship 9:10am Bible Study 10:30am Holy Communion</p> <p>Sub Pickup after service</p>	<p>24 8:30am Morning Walkers</p>	<p>25 8:30am Morning Walkers 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study</p>	<p>26 8:30am Morning Walkers</p>	<p>27 8:30am Morning Walkers Prayer Time: 9:15am & 12:15pm</p>	<p>28 8:30am Morning Walkers</p>	

February 2025



Worship Schedule

Sunday Life Worship	8:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship (in person & Facebook Live)	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study	9:10 a.m.
Saturday Life Worship, February 8th	5:00 p.m.

(Holy Communion is offered every Sunday except the 3rd Sunday of the month.)

Mission Statement

*Our Mission is to focus
on the community through Christ.*

HELLO NEIGHBORS!

We would like to share a copy of our monthly newsletter with you. We invite you to join us in any and all events mentioned within.

*"Come to me all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest."
- Spoken by Jesus, Book of Matthew 11:28*

The Messenger

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Jesus ves you

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