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Pipestone, MN 56164

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A brief history of Confirmation

In recent years, “confirmation” in the Lutheran Church has been reconsidered because it has grown to be something that it was never intended to be. This includes our circuit pastor’s monthly meetings over the past several months with many reconsidering how we view such things. The many “traditions” of Lutheran confirmation all emerged in the last hundred years or so. Confirmation became the “rite of passage” for Lutheran fourteen year-olds by the 1940’s. It was the most important moment of their young faith life with the emphasis placed on their confirmation vow. Sadly, a “graduation” mentality arose and many newly confirmed members drifted away soon after their vows because they believed they had “completed” their instruction. For the past 15-20 years, many in the LCMS have reevaluated in our best practices to teach children about Jesus.

This is not to say there was no merit in Lutheran confirmation all those years. Indeed, many children, including our own members, were taught the faith in Jesus in their confirmation instruction. However, with every church practice there comes a time for reconsideration and possible renewal.

Confirmation in the Early Church

“Confirmation” did not exist as we understand it today. Confirmation was actually a part of the rite of Baptism. Generally speaking, adult confirmands would undergo an extensive period of catechesis (typically three years), and then at the Easter Vigil would be baptized. They were then “confirmed” in this baptismal faith by means of chrism, prayers, the sign of the cross, and the laying on of hands. As Christianity became more widespread, confirmation went away as most were baptized as infants.

Confirmation in the Middle Ages

By the 12th century men such as Hugo of St. Victor there was a resurgence in confirmation, calling it a sacrament. Other medieval theologians followed suit. In November of 1439 at the Council of Florence, confirmation was designated a sacrament through the papal decree Pro Armenis of Eugene IV. It was from that time forward a part of the Roman sacramental system, bestowed grace, was equal in power to the other sacraments.

Confirmation in the Reformation Period

The Roman abuses of Confirmation had made Confirmation suspect in the minds of many, particularly Luther himself. Luther at different times called Confirmation: monkey business (Affenspiel), fanciful deception

(Lügenstand), and mumbo-jumbo (Gaukelwerk). Luther’s objections to the Roman Rite of Confirmation included: 1) It lacked the command and promise of the Lord. 2) It had no Scriptural basis.

The Lutheran Confessions followed a similar lead on confirmation. The Augsburg Confession, for instance, did not include confirmation among the sacraments. We can also find in the Apology to the Augsburg Confession the following: *Confirmation and extreme unction are rites received from the Fathers which even the church does not require as necessary for salvation since they do not have the command of God. Hence it is useful to distinguish these from the earlier ones which have an express command from God and a clear promise of grace.*

Apology of the Augsburg Confession XIII, Tappert, p. 21
Pietism (18th century)

Pietism is the anti-orthodox movement which began in the mid-17th century. It is most commonly known for it’s emphasis on a heart-felt piety, the practice of piety, separation from the unconverted, and the unity of like-minded believers. We find under Pietism a shift began to take place in confirmation. With the rise of Pietism under Jacob Philip Spener (1635-1705) we find confirmation coming to the forefront, but with a different purpose than had ever existed. For the first time confirmation thus served: To demonstrate that the confirmand was truly converted. This resulted in the age for catechumens to go up. The age under Pietism, thus, became 16 years old.

Confirmation Comes to the United States

With the Lutheran immigrants coming to the United States in the 19th century, this hodgepodge of rites, practices, and theories behind confirmation all came over on the boats. By the 1940’s the age was shifted younger toward what was traditional but not as young as was traditionally done, to 12-14 years old and with the rise of Lutheran Schools that exist up to 8th grade, grade level became more the measure. It was with this, that the graduation ceremony arose as there was an element to receiving communion. While not getting rid of instruction, there has been much discussion in our circuit, as there has been a shift over the last 15-20 years in many parts of the country to distinguish confirmation from First Communion. Our current hymnal does so as well. This is a more historic practice.

Having seen and done this at previous congregations, and with others that do the same, this serves to actually highlights and elevates both the importance of communion in one’s life as well as the importance of continued, ongoing instruction. DCE Susie and I will be meeting with parents soon to discuss more of what this might look like, as well as with our Board of Education. We welcome questions and discussion so that we may best serve our youth and families in ways that line with the Reformation “solus” of: by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, with Scripture alone, so that glory goes to God alone.

-Pastor Amen

February 2024 Worship

Sunday, February 4, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31, 1 Corinthians 9:16-27, Mark 1:29-39

Hymns: 825, 398, 690, 797, 541

Service: Setting 1

Sermon: Compassion

Sunday, February 11, Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29–35, 2 Kings 2:1–12, Mark 9:2-9

Hymns: 416, 414, 537, 821, 417

Service: Setting 1

Sermon: Revealed

Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday

Genesis 3:1-24, Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 4:18-22

Hymns: 418, 915, 614, 956, 611, 419, 550

Sermon: Love in the Ministry

Sunday, February 18, First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-16, Genesis 22:1-18, Mark 1:9-15

Hymns: 418, 422, 656, 861, 745, 547

Service: Setting 4

Sermon: Temptation

Wednesday, February 21, Midweek Lent 1

Matthew 13:34-35, Luke 10:25-37, Luke 15:11-31

Hymns: 423, 570, 878

Sermon: Love in the Parables

Sunday, February 25, Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 32:22-32, Romans 5:1-11, Mark 8:27-38

Hymns: 420, 422, 708, 685, 837

Service: Setting 4

Sermon: Let’s Get Ready to Rumble

Wednesday, February 28, Midweek Lent 2

Mark 4:35-41, Luke 9:10-17

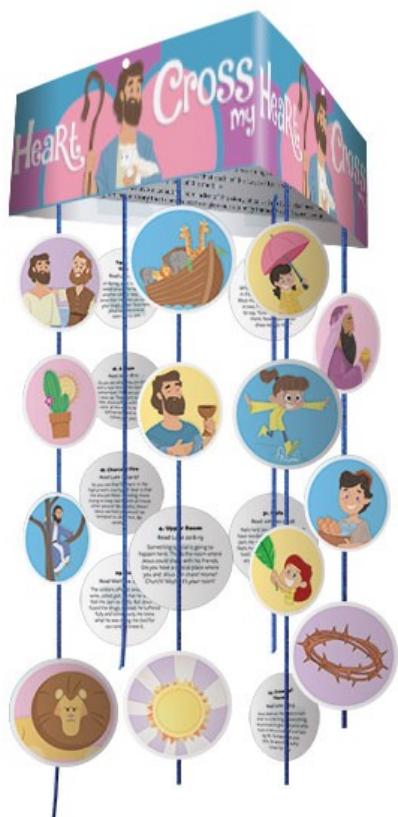
Hymns: 433, 421, 889

Sermon: Love in Miracles

Cross My Heart

Each week as we gather for Lenten services, receive your week's string. Perfect as a centerpiece above the table or in the classroom, family room or bedroom, this mobile grows throughout Lent as we pray through the days until Jesus' glorious resurrection. Each week includes a daily devotional verse and Scripture passage following the theme of the week. There is also available a great children's Lenten devotional booklet in the atrium.

Lenten meals begin at 5:30pm, with the Worship Service at 6:30pm.



February 14

Elders

Ash Wednesday
Love in the Ministry

February 21

LWML

Midweek Lent 2
Love in the Parables

February 28

Missions

Midweek Lent 3
Love in the Miracles

March 6

Church Growth & Fellowship

Midweek Lent 4
Love in the Healings

March 13

Youth

Midweek Lent 5
Love in the Last Week

March 20

Preschool

Midweek Lent 6
Love in the Cross



Save the Date for VBS! August 5-9, 2024. At Scuba VBS, kids explore what it means to have a friendship with a real, loving, trustworthy God - a friendship that lasts forever! You can expect a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that help kids grow in faith.

Due to weather, the board was unable to meet in January. Their next meeting will be February 13th. Below is a list of the current Board of Directors.

Board Members:

President	Blake Jasper	605-988-4367
V. President	Verdeen Colbeck	507-820-0761
Treasurer	Doug Stotz	507-215-2094
Secretary	Karla Loll	507-215-2484
Properties	Mike Crawford	
	Loren Dockter	
	Todd Augustad	
Pastor	Christopher Amen	507-562-4851



Est. Monthly Need	\$32,360.89
December Offering.....	\$64,758.50
2023 Total.....	\$367,885.12
LWML Mites YTD.....	\$10
Coins For Christ YTD	\$0



Thrivent members: If you haven't designated your 2023 Thrivent Choice Dollars yet, you still can! Thrivent members, visit www.thrivent.com/choicedollars or call 1-800-Thrivent, say "Choice Dollars." If you don't designate your 2023 Choice Dollars by March 31, 2024, they will be lost. This is no cost to you—you are asking Thrivent to donate money to the non-profit of your choice. Please consider designating them to St Paul Lutheran or to St Paul Lutheran Preschool.



Preschool will be hosting their annual pancake supper on February 18th after our worship service. They will serve from 10am-12:30pm, and collect a free will donation which will go to support the preschool! We look forward to seeing you there!



Offerings for Missions

February 4: LWML Mite Box Sunday. The mites/door collections will support national and international mission grants. Read about this month's featured grants below, and join us to learn more on February 1 at 2pm. Year to date we have collected \$10 to donate towards these grants.

MOBILE KITCHEN

Forged by Fire Services | \$85,000

Forged by Fire Services prepares food for communities following natural disasters. They will come into a community with their trailer of supplies; set up their tent and kitchen. Grant money will purchase a mobile kitchen trailer. The trailer will allow for faster setup, protection from weather changes, and require less space.

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, Texas | \$50,000

The Disaster Response Team of Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler, Texas, responds to help victims of natural disasters. They are called to serve, have a presence on the ground, and assist with cleanup. While providing help, they listen to the victims and share the love of Jesus and bring hope, encouragement, and healing through God's Word and prayer.

February 18: Our door collection today will be for Gifts of Love. These gifts are used by Church Growth & Fellowship to support members in encouragement and support at certain times of need.



Sr. SPY Youth Group

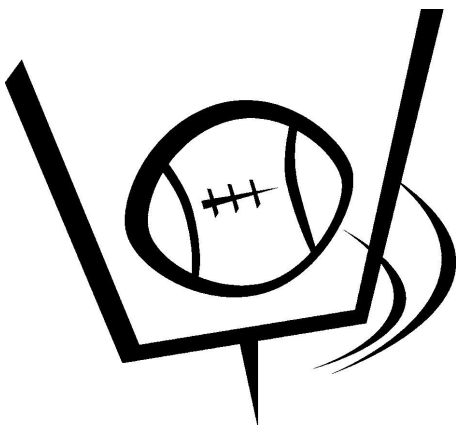
Wednesday February 7, 14, & 28 ~ 7-8:30 PM

Youth Group is continuing WEEKLY in February. Join us for a great teen Bible study on relationships, fellowship time, and lots of fun games. This is a wonderful time to grow in your faith and relationships with one another and with God. Note, there is no Sr. SPY on February 21 as DCE Susie will be out of town at a conference.

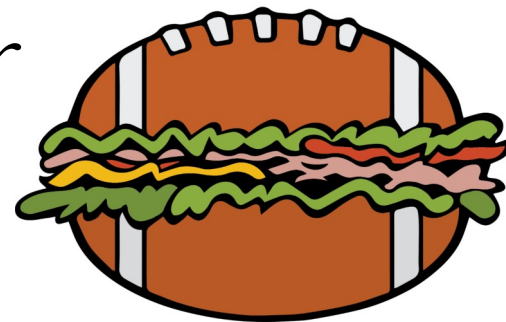
Jr. SPY Youth Group

Sunday February 2, 18, & 25 ~ 7-8:30 PM

Starting with a meal at 7, we will play fun games, and spend time in fellowship, and learn more about our faith. Note, there is no Jr. SPY on Sunday, February 11. Enjoy the time with your family!



Super Bowl Subs



Super Bowl Subs

February 10 & 11 (Delivery or Pick Up)

There is still time to order your Super Bowl Subs! Each sub will be \$6 and comes with ham, turkey, salami, and 2 types of cheeses all on a hoagie roll. All orders must be in by February 7th. An online order form is available on the church website as well as on Facebook and a physical order form in the Atrium. They will be available for delivery on February 10th or pick up at church on February 11th. All proceeds will go to the youth for events such as the 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering and Confirmation retreat.

Super Bowl Subs

Saturday, February 10 ~ 12-4 PM

We will assemble all the Super Bowl Subs on February 10th starting at noon and continue until they are done! This is a big fundraiser for the youth so please join us if you are able, even if it is just for a portion of the time.

Sr. SPY Super Bowl Subs Assembling

Wednesday February 7 ~ 7-8:30 PM

During Youth Group on February 7, we will begin the process of assembling the Super Bowl Subs. There will still be a Bible Study and fellowship time as well!



FEBRUARY

Thurs, Feb 1 2:00pm LWML

Sun, Feb 4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
 9:00am *Divine Service*
 10:00am JAM
 6:00pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Jr. SPY

Tues, Feb 6 9:00am Bible Study at 8th Ave Diner

Wed, Feb 7 1:00pm Quilters
 5:30pm Bells
 7:00pm Choir
 7:00pm Sr. SPY

Sat Feb 10 12-4pm SPY Super Bowl Sub Assembly

Sun, Feb 11 Transfiguration
 9:00am *Divine Service*
 10:00am JAM

Tues, Feb 13 9:00am Bible Study at 8th Ave Diner
 7:00pm Board of Directors

Wed, Feb 14 1:00pm Quilters
 5:00pm Church Growth and Fellowship
 5:15pm Bells
 6:30pm *Ash Wednesday Service*
 7:00pm Choir
 7:00pm Sr. SPY

Thurs, Feb 15 10:30am *Service at Ridgeview*
 1:00pm *Service at Good Sam*
 3:00pm *Shut-in Service at St Paul*

Sun, Feb 18 First Sunday in Lent
 9:00am *Divine Service*
 10:15am JAM
 10:00am Preschool Pancake Supper
 6:00pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Jr. SPY

Mon, Feb 19 5:15pm Board of Education

Tues, Feb 20 9:00am Bible Study at 8th Ave Diner

Wed, Feb 21 1:00pm Quilters
 5:15pm Bells
 6:30pm *Lenten Service*
 7:00pm Choir

Sun, Feb 25 Second Sunday in Lent
 9:00am *Divine Service*
 10:15am JAM
 6:00pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Jr. SPY

Tues, Feb 27 9:00am Bible Study at 8th Ave Diner

Wed, Feb 28 10:00am SAGES
 1:00pm Quilters
 5:15pm Bells
 6:30pm *Lenten Service*
 7:00pm Choir
 7:00pm Sr. SPY
 7:00pm Board of Elders



Our Shut In Service will be held each month on the third Thursday. Join us this month on February 15th for a time of worship and communion.



Bible Studies and Groups

Sign up to bring treats for downstairs on Sunday
on the bulletin board in atrium!

Join us for Sunday morning Bible Study in the
atrium after service.



SAGES
Saints Alive!
Growing Ever Serving

Wednesday, February 28, 10:00am

Join us for a time of coffee and fellowship, a
little Bible study, a few mind games and a good
time with others who admit to not being as
young as they use to be.



Thursday, February 1, 2:00pm

Ladies of all ages are welcome to attend as we
plan and discuss the upcoming year and update
on LWML mission projects.

Pastor will lead us in a Bible Study

The **Quilting Group** meets on **Wednesdays at 1pm**. Join in the fellowship and work on some projects. We would love for you to join us on Wednesdays for a fun afternoon of sewing and fellowship. You do not need to have quilting experience, just willing hands. Can't join every week? That's ok! Please come when you are able!





St. Paul Preschool

February, 2023

Who do you love? February is the month when our thoughts turn to Valentines. In school we will be talking about love... the love we have for families, the love we have for each other, and the love God has for us!

The Bible gives us a definition of love. "Love is patient and kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) We can learn a lot about love from these verses. They don't describe the wild, passionate emotion we see on TV and in the movies, but rather a lifetime of commitment and giving of ourselves. This is the kind of love we want to share with our families. It is the kind of love that God gives us.

We are currently taking registrations for the 2024/2025 school year. Please spread the word with family and friends! We welcome any comments you have regarding the preschool. As parents, your opinions are very important to us. With your help, we'd like to make each year a little better than the last.

Classes are M/W/F 8:15-11:00 or 12:15-3:00. We are also offering a 5 day a week M/W/F mornings and T/TH afternoons, or M-F all afternoons. 3-year-old program is T/Th 8:15-11:00.



We will be having Valentines parties on Feb. 12th and 13th at 10:15 for the morning classes and 2:15 for the afternoon classes, 5 day week will be on the 13th also. There will be an invitation for you to be looking for! We will be making a craft and having cookies and drink. The children will make a valentine's bag in preschool for their valentines they get at school. I will send home a list of children's names in their class.

Please remember if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time!



In Christ's Love,
Shelly, Paige, Gloria, and Rose

Reminder:

Valentines Parties:
February 12 /13, 10:15/2:15.
5-day classes will celebrate on the 13th.

St. Paul Preschool is owned and operated by St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS.
621 W. Main St., Pipestone, MN
507-825-2142

Teacher/Director
Shelly Tuinstra
s.tuinstra@iw.net

Assistant teachers
Paige Larsen
Gloria Evans
Rose Sorenson

Preschool board members
Meg DeGroot
Melissa McCorquodale
Heather Brinkmeyer
Kari Hamann
Elizabeth Determan



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

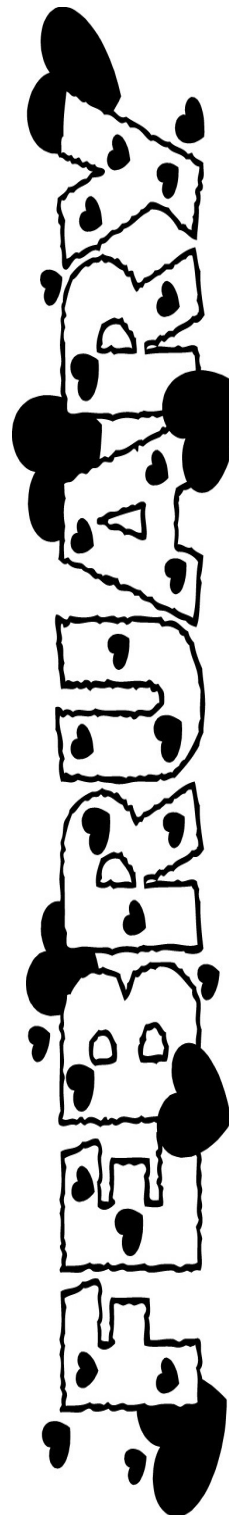
Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- We
- Above all,
- My command is this:
- And over all these virtues put on
- Greater
- See what great
- There is no fear in



- each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
- has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
- But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
- each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
- the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
- because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14

Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3



Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- $14 - 7 =$ Father
- $10 + 9 =$ heavenly
- $9 + 9 =$ the
- $12 + 12 =$ blessing
- $2 - 1 =$ Praise
- $7 + 7 =$ has
- $11 + 11 =$ every
- $13 + 13 =$ Christ
- $8 + 8 =$ us
- $10 + 10 =$ realms
- $8 + 9 =$ in
- $5 + 5 =$ Lord
- $10 + 11 =$ with

- $10 + 15 =$ in
- $10 - 5 =$ God
- $6 - 3 =$ to
- $12 - 6 =$ and
- $6 + 6 =$ Christ
- $18 - 9 =$ our
- $22 - 11 =$ Jesus
- $1 + 1 =$ be
- $7 + 6 =$ who
- $2 + 2 =$ the
- $10 + 5 =$ blessed
- $4 + 4 =$ of
- $10 + 13 =$ spiritual

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV



FEBRUARY

Volunteers

Greeters

Sun, Feb 4----- Meg DeGroot and Kids
 Sun, Feb 11----- Jeff Alderson
 Wed, Feb 14-----
 Sun, Feb 18----- Brian and Jessica Uilk
 Wed, Feb 21----- Doug and Denise Stotz
 Sun, Feb 25 ----- Skip Moeller and Mariah Moeller
 Wed, Feb 28 ----- Mike and Katie Wiese

Acolytes

Sun, Feb 4----- Amara Stotz and Josey Fey
 Sun, Feb 11----- Hayden Heard and Mackayla Lange
 Wed, Feb 14----- Danica LaBrune and Ashlyn Meulebroeck
 Sun, Feb 18----- Cora Loll and Ryker Beyers
 Wed, Feb 21----- Harry Fey and Tenli McCorquodale
 Sun, Feb 25 ----- Kami Tollefson and Breylee Tollefson
 Wed, Feb 28 ----- Harper Smidt and Mackenzie Lange

PowerPoint

Sun, Feb 4----- Mariah Stueven
 Sun, Feb 11----- Morgan Thompson
 Wed, Feb 14----- Jasmine Boeke
 Sun, Feb 18----- Taryn Tuinstra
 Wed, Feb 21----- Emersyn Smidt
 Sun, Feb 25 ----- Samantha Radloff
 Wed, Feb 28 ----- Kamdyn Zohner

Altar Guild

Shelly Tuinstra, Shelly Bobendrier, and Theresa Draper

Elders

Sundays ----- Kevin Uilk and Dan Uilk
 Wed, Feb 14 ----- TJ DeGroot
 Wed, Feb 21 ----- Duane Kruse
 Wed, Feb 28 ----- Rodger Smidt

Altar Flowers

Sun, Feb 4----- Dick & Jill Whipple
 Sun, Feb 11----- Mike & Jill Moeller
 Sun, Feb 18 -----
 Sun, Feb 25 -----

Radio Sponsorship

Sun, Feb 4-----
 Sun, Feb 11----- Darwin & Barbara Raschke
 Sun, Feb 18 -----
 Sun, Feb 25 -----

Sound

Sun, Feb 4----- Denny Winter
 Sun, Feb 11----- Verdeen Colbeck
 Wed, Feb 14 ----- Neal Jennings
 Sun, Feb 18 ----- Denny Winter
 Wed, Feb 21 ----- Verdeen Colbeck
 Sun, Feb 25 ----- Neal Jennings
 Wed, Feb 28 ----- Denny Winter