

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4941 W. Center St.
Millington, MI 48746
www.stpaul-millington.org
989-871-4581
E-mail: church.office@spmill.org

Rev. James Bruner
Rev. Kirk Abatelli

St. Paul Monthly Messenger

December 2015

*"We are God's servants, saved by grace, through faith,
commissioned to share the Word of Christ to all."*

A Message from Pastor Bruner

*The December Messenger
is sponsored in
memory of Ernie Smith.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Recipients of the Greatest Gift – Jesus the Christ Child,

Consuming food from favorite recipes is common during December. Have you read a modern recipe for December? *Take as much as you think is possible and even more; press them into the tiny square measuring cups on the calendar. Mix together your personal, professional and church commitments and pour these into a pressure cooker. Become anxious and upset that you are just too busy to fit anything else inside. In frustration, let everything else spill over into the following month, because there is no more room.*

Why do we have and keep this recipe?

Instead of feasting on the gift of God's saving grace through Jesus, we exert much energy stirring up and mixing activities that starve us. We fill our lives with much, but we remain empty.

God provides the recipe that fills our soul with the true ingredient of CHRISTmas. Jesus is the Bread of Life, the sacrificial Lamb, the Living Water. This December, taste the traditions of the past and enjoy the zest found in God's Word as shared in song and proclamation*. Feast on the freedom from sin and condemnation that God has prepared in the banquet meal, also called the Lord's Supper. In short, fill up on what God has said and is serving in every Divine Service opportunity. Jesus can and will satisfy you.

Learn a lesson from the Garden of Eden. Reaching outside the healthy food group boundary that God provides is what causes problems. Don't be consumed, but rather gladly receive what God says is good for you. God promises we will have joy through generous portions of JESUS.

Therefore, measure up your schedule according to what is important and truly satisfies your needs.

Remember - you matter to God and you matter to me,

Rev. James R. Bruner

*Let me suggest the Christmas Concert, the remaining Advent services, one of the Children's Christmas services, the Candlelight service, the Christmas Day celebration, as well as the New Year's Eve service.

Merry Christmas

Spiritual News

Bible Studies



**9:45AM Sun-
Adult Bible**

**day Morning
Studies**

Join us for **Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall** before Bible Study begins.

Bible Study – “Bearing Their Burden” - Led by Pastor Bruner in the Library. Do you know someone who bears the burden of sin? Truthfully, we all bear the burden of sin. Whatever the sin may be, anyone who has rejected God in a moment of weakness can still come to God the Father in repentance and be restored by His amazing grace. How can we talk about the sin of others without being judgmental, rather show concern for their soul? The issue of same sex attraction will be one area addressed in this study. This Bible study will apply the principles of Galatians 6:1-2. “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ.”

Adult Instruction Class “The Real Truth” - Led by Pastor Abatelli in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Other Bible Studies

Daily Lectionary

Led by Pastor Bruner Wednesdays at 9AM in the Council Room.

Heroes Men’s Bible Study

Led by Pastor Abatelli Tues., December 8th at 7:30PM in the Library.

Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sat., December 12th at 7:30AM in the school library.
Note Date Change
Coffee and goodies provided.

Scripture Readings

December 6th Malachi 3:1-7b
Philippians 1:2-11
Luke 3:1-20

December 13th Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 7:18-35

December 20th Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-56

December 27th Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:22-40

December Meetings

Social Concerns

Wed., Dec. 2nd at 6:30PM

Council

Wed., Dec. 2nd at 8PM

Board of Education

Tues., Dec. 8th at 6:30PM

Voters’ Assembly

Sun., Dec. 13th at 1:30PM

Trustees

Sun., Dec. 13th after Voters’

Stephen Ministry

Mon., Dec. 14th & 28th at 7PM

Elders

Wed., Dec. 23rd at 7:30PM

Musical Opportunities

Anyone is welcome to join any of our musical groups at any time!

Handbells

Mondays at 7PM

Church Choir

Dec. 2nd & 16th at 6PM

Dec. 23rd at 7PM

Praise Team

Thursdays at
6:15PM



Our school theme this year is “**Gratitude**” based on Colossians 2:6-7.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Calendar of Events

Happenings at St. Paul

Everyone is welcome!

Storyhour

Tuesdays from 9-11AM in the nursery.

Quilting

Tuesdays from 1-3PM in the Parish Hall.

Painting Classes

Tuesdays from 6-8PM in the Projects Room.

Get Fit

Tuesdays at 6PM and Thursdays at 6:15PM in the Library.

AA Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings every Tuesday from 7:30-8:30PM in the Council Room.

Scrapbooking

Sat., Dec. 12th from 9AM-7PM in the Parish Hall. Pre register \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 at the door. **R.S.V.P.** in the school office 871-4581 or at school.office@spsmill.org.

SCRAPBOOKING MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME...JESUS MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER!

Voters' Assembly Meeting Sun., Dec. 13th at 1:30PM.

Candles & Carols

Presented by the
Millington Ministerial Alliance
Sun., Dec. 13th at 6PM
at the Millington Church of God

Come together to celebrate our Savior – the reason for the season with song! If you would like to bake cookies or bars for fellowship time after the event, please bring them to the

Church of God before 6PM. Thank you!



Messenger/Calendar Deadline Wednesday, Dec. 16th

Oils of the Bible

Thurs., Dec. 17th at 6:30PM in the multi-purpose room. Everyone is invited to find out how to use essential oils to live a life of wellness, purpose, and abundance. Questions? Call Jan at 989-475-2091.



**1st Day of Winter
Dec. 22nd**



**Offices Closed
December 24th & 25th
Merry Christmas!**

Area News

INFORMATION NIGHT Tues., Dec. 1st at 7PM at Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw for prospective students presently in the 7th or 8th grade, and their parents. Come get a guided tour of the school and hear about the many programs and activities that VLHS has to offer. No RSVP needed. For more details, call the school office 989-790-1676, or e-mail Heath Vincent at hvincent@vlhs.com.

Holiday Sweet Sale & Luncheon Fri., Dec. 4th from 10AM-2PM at St. Paul, Caro. Soup & Sandwich Luncheon also available.

Living Nativity – A Journey to Bethlehem at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Frankentrost. Fri., Dec. 4th 7-9PM, Sat., & Sun., Dec. 5th & 6th 6-8PM. Free 30 minute outdoor walk as you travel to Bethlehem to pay your taxes and be counted in the census. Hear the shepherds talk and see the baby Jesus asleep in the manger. Light refreshments and fellowship in the school following the walk.

Breakfast with Santa/Cookie Walk Sat., Dec. 5th from 9AM-12PM at the Millington Community Center. Children will decorate a cookie, make 2 crafts to take home and can have their picture taken with Santa. Adults: \$5, Ages 6-10: \$2, 5 & under: Free

All You Can Eat Cod Fri., Dec. 11th from 11-2 and 4-7 at St. Martin Lutheran Church. Adults: 10.00, 5-12: 7.00, Under 5: Free.

Bazaar/Cookie Walk Sat., Dec. 12th from 9AM-3PM at Christ Lutheran Church, Birch Run. Gifts for Christmas, Homemade Breads & Candies, Something for everyone!

MOST Mission Trip Opportunity - He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done. Proverbs 19:17 Did you know that approximately 1.8 million children die every year as a result of diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation? If you would like to play a part in changing this situation, consider joining MOST Ministries 1611 Water Team heading to Nicaragua this coming spring (March 28 -April 3.) We currently need an entire team or a minimum of eight individuals to join. Without you, an entire community will not receive physical and spiritual life-giving water. For more information contact Debby Suchyta at dsuchyta@mostministries.org, 734,994,7909 x11 or visit MOST Ministries website. A firm commitment to go is needed by December 22.

From the Ad Hoc Committee

“Keeping the Command, Keeping the Promise”

In the last chapter of Matthew, Christ commanded us to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” He also promised in those passages, “I will be with you always, even to the end of the age.”

For 118 years, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School has baptized and taught what Christ commanded to countless adults and children in the Millington area. By their investment of time, talent, and treasure in the Gospel, our ancestors promised future generations that the teachings of Jesus Christ would continue for generations to come. That was their vision and drive. It was their hope that their children, grandchildren, and others would be taught everything that Christ commanded.

It is with this same commitment to OUR future generations that we at St. Paul are launching our “Keeping the Command, Keeping the Promise” campaign to raise needed funds to offset the cost of Christian education at St. Paul Lutheran. We as a congregation must keep the command of our Lord to preach and teach the Gospel. We as a congregation must keep the promise of our ancestors to provide a place for Christian education and growth as we remember Christ’s promise to us that He will be with us always, even to the end of the age.

Our congregation through our offerings has underwritten the cost of a Christian education for both members and non-members alike for generations. Now, we are at a critical time in our congregation’s history. We have a deficit that can no longer be absorbed by our own funds. Our Board of Stewardship is diligently working on a stewardship program to help us become more aware of the problem and our responsibilities in solving it out of love for our Lord and what He has done for us. An Ad Hoc Committee for Deficit Reduction was formed after passage of our latest deficit budget. It has been tasked with developing ideas for increasing revenue and decreasing expenses to help in reducing the deficit.

One of the projects the Ad Hoc Committee is pursuing is a community wide auction of new or like new donated items as a way of increasing revenue. This auction will take place April 30, 2016. We are asking our membership for prayer to make the auction a success, for their time in volunteering to help with running the auction, and for donations of goods or services that could be used for auction. Items that could be donated could include, but not limited to:

Furniture	Unique Dining Experiences	Travel Experiences	Sports Event Tickets
Tools	Quilts	Hand Crafted Items	Sports Memorabilia
Home Décor	Kitchen Appliances	Games, Toys, Electronics	Sports Equipment
Gift Certificates	Homemade Preserves	Baked Goods	Collectibles
Antiques	Vehicles	Household Goods	

Some of the items will be used for a live auction, others for a silent auction, and some for a “For Sale” table with a set price for purchase. While this project will not fully erase the deficit, it is a significant start. Please determine what you can do to help make this successful. To make a donation, contact Jan Snyder at auction@spmill.org or through the church office. We are still looking for additional members to help with subcommittees for this event. Please check out stpaul-millington.org/auction for more information. Let’s “Keep the Command, and Keep the Promise” together.

The Ad Hoc Committee for Deficit Reduction

Daily Lectionary Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2015 Daily Lectionary LSB pp. 299-304						
6 th S. in Advent Is 14:1-23 2 Pt 3:1-18 Ps 56:1-2, 5-11, 13	7 Is 24:1-13 1 Jn 1:1 - 2:14 Ps 25:1-7	8 Is 24:14 - 25:12 1 Jn 2:15-29 Ps 11	9 Is 26:1-19 1 Jn 3:1-24 Ps 17:6-15	10 Is 26:20 -- 27:13 1 Jn 4:1-21 Ps 86:1-7	11 Is 28:14-29 1 Jn 5:1-21 Ps 5:1-8	12 Is 29:1-14 Jude 1-25 Ps 106:1-5
13 th S. in Advent Is 29:15 -- 30:14 Rv 1:1-20 Ps 89:20-29	14 Is 30:15-26 Rv 2:1-29 Ps 27:1, 4-5, 11-14	15 Is 30:27-- 31:9 Rv 3:1-22 Ps 146:1-7	16 Is 32:1-20 Rv 4:1-11 Ps 149	17 Is 33:1-24 Rv 5:1-14 Ps 40:1-5, 16-17	18 Is 34:1-2, 8 - 35:10 Rv 6:1-17 Ps 119:81-88	19 Is 40:1-17 Rv 7:1-17 Ps 103:11-18
20 th S. in Advent Is 40:18 -- 41:10 Rev. 8:1-13 Ps 119:25-32	21 Is 42:1-25 Rv 9:1-12 Ps 102:24-28	22 Is 43:1-24 Rv 9:13 -- 10:11 Ps 115:1-8, 11	23 Is 43:25 -- 44:20 Rv 11:1-19 Ps 39:4-8	24 Christmas Eve Is 44:21 -- 45:13, 20-25 Rv 12:1-17 Ps 98:1-6, 9	25 Christmas Is 49:1-18 Mt 1:1-17 Ps 96:1-5, 11-13	26 Is 49:22-26; 50:4 - 51:8, 12-16 Matt. 1:18-25 Ps 34:4-10, 19
27 th 1 st S. a. Christmas Is 51:17-52:12 Mt 2:1-12 Ps 27:1, 4, 10-15, 18-19	28 Is 52:13 -- 54:10 Mt 2:13-23 Ps 9:11-14	29 Is 55:1-13 Lk 1:1-25 Ps 78:1-7	30 Is 58:1 -- 59:3, 14-21 Lk 1:26-38 Ps 89:1-4, 14-18	31 Is 60:1-22 Lk 1:39-56 Ps 111:1-6, 10	Notes from: A Small Catechism on Human Life By John T. Pless, 2006 LCMS Life Ministries, pp. 44-47.	

WHAT DOES REDEMPTION HAVE TO DO WITH BODILY LIFE?

There is a tendency to either idolize the body or ignore it. On the one hand, our culture glorifies the search for the perfect body—youthful, fit, attractive and healthy. On the other hand, there are ethicists who lament an “excessively physicalist approach,” ... arguing instead that emphasis should be placed on such intangible dimensions as freedom of personal expression and the quality of relationship. Neither of these extremes are consistent with the Christian faith, for the Son of God took on human flesh and blood to redeem us in body and soul. The body is created, redeemed and hallowed by God, Who destines it for the resurrection. The words that the pastor speaks at the grave actually tell us much about life: “May God the Father, who created this body, may God the Son, who by His blood redeemed this body, may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.”

God’s Son has a body. In the womb of Mary, Jesus was conceived by the Spirit and grew as an embryo through the nine months of gestation to birth. By His incarnation, He has hallowed life in the womb. Redemption is not merely a spiritual transaction. It was accomplished by Christ Jesus in His flesh and blood. So the Catechism reminds us that Jesus Christ, true God begotten of the Father from all eternity and true man, born of the Virgin Mary “has redeemed me a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.”

Bought with a price, our bodies are not our own. This is the point Paul uses to clinch the case against sexual immorality: “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Co 6:19b-20). You do not belong to yourself, and that is good news. The Second Article of the Creed, just like the First Article, shows us that autonomy is a lie! In contrast to the beguiling temptation to be autonomous, a temptation that only drags us down to despair, entangling us in a life which is ultimately dead-ended, the Catechism promises something far more liberating and expansive. It promises life in Jesus, who is bodily risen from the grave. He has redeemed our bodies and souls “that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.” And because it is most certainly true, all empty promises of autonomy are unmasked for what they really are—lies from the father of lies.

Study question: What does the Incarnation have to do with the way we treat life in the body at all stages?

Messenger Mailing News / Misc. / Special Thanks

New Cookbook

A **2016 Church and School Cookbook** is in the making. Recipe forms may be picked up in the church and school offices or from Lorie Keinath. The book will contain 500 recipes, so at this time, please limit your recipes to three. Church members and St. Paul students may submit recipes. Depending on participation, all recipes submitted may not be printed. The deadline for submitting recipes is December 1st. All sales will go towards the debt reduction program. If questions, contact Lorie Keinath 871-3739.

Photo Directory

It's time for a new Church Directory! The directory will not be complete without you, so please sign up in the narthex before or after services or go online Monday through Friday at www.ucdir.com. Use Church #: mi817, Password: stpaul. Picture dates are Nov. 27th & 28th, Dec. 2nd-5th. If questions, please call Wanda Johnson 871-3962.

Flower Chart

The 2016 Flower Chart is hanging in the hallway between the church mailboxes. When signing up, please leave your name, phone number and if center or side vases.

Staff Gift

If you would like to show your appreciation for the St. Paul staff, place your **cash donation (no checks please)** in an envelope marked "Staff Christmas" and place in the offering plate or bring to the church office by Fri., Dec. 11th. Please remember, this is not a tax deductible gift and will not be recorded on your giving statement.



Special Thanks!

I want to say **thank you** to all those who expressed appreciation to me for my ministry and for my family. Your words are powerful and mean so much to me personally. Many of you also made a point to share that October is not the only month you appreciate what I do in the name of our Lord. Thank you again for these words of encouragement and also for the generous gifts of various kinds. I hope you know that you truly matter to God and that you matter to me. I pray that God will continue to provide what you need, when I cannot do all that I wish I could for you.

Remember - you matter to God and you matter to me,
Pastor Jim Bruner and family

On behalf of my family and me, **thank you** for showing your appreciation with your kind words and goodies. It is encouraging to see God's blessings through you as we grow in Christ together.

Pastor Kirk Abatelli

Our **Dorcas Ladies' Christmas Bazaar** was a success! **Thank you** for all the volunteers. Thank you for those who made the wonderful items to sell, whether you donated or were a vendor, your talents are appreciated! Thank you for those who helped to set up and pack up. Many volunteers helped to sell items on Thurs., Sat., and Sun. We had a great number of shoppers who helped us raise over \$3,000.00 this year! Our Dorcas ladies thank you and we look forward to fulfilling our mission of helping those in need.

A **special thank you** to everyone who helped with Toys & Joys this year. Thank you for all the workers who helped, and everyone who donated to a great cause. It was a great day!!

Thanks again,
Karen Bruner

Please Notice This



This will be the last Messenger mailing!

Beginning in January we will no longer be mailing the Messenger to every household.

Copies will be available in the narthex and it can also be read online.

If you would still prefer to have one mailed to you, you will need to call the church office and we will gladly mail one to you.
If you have any questions, please call the office at 871-4581.



December Schedule



Acolytes

2	4PM	Advent	Joshua Allen & Justin
5	7:30PM		Landon Kern & Jeremy
6	8:30AM		Kirsten Skousen
6	11AM		Pierce & Sterling Force
6	4PM	Concert	Kirsten Skousen
9	4PM	Advent	Ethan Hoard & Ethan
12	7:30PM		David Daenzer & Mason Lugg
13	8:30AM		Katherine Weber & Duane
13	11AM		Kaitlyn Ill & Jeff
16	4PM	Advent	Conner MacKay
19	7:30PM		Ethan Hoard & Evan
20	8:30AM		Christian Kennedy & Eric
20	11AM		Katelyn Kaschner & Gary
20	4PM	Children's	**Note Time Change** Zac Yorke & Jeff
24	6PM	Children's	Joshua Allan & Justin
24	9PM	Candle	David Daenzer & Mason Lugg
25	10AM	Christmas	Abby Brown & Tim
26	7:30PM		**No Service**
27	8:30AM		Asher Petzold & Jeremy
27	11AM		Jack Shreve
31	7PM	NY Eve	**Note Time Change** Jenna Smith

Greeters

day
7:30PM
Shelli

First Satur-

Lugg
First Sunday

8:30AM

Shirley Petzold

11:00AM

Les & Diane Maxson, Ron & Olga Nims

Second Saturday
Second Sunday

7:30PM
8:30AM
11:00AM

Betty Bleuer
Ken & Kathy Ill
LuAnn Licavoli, Wayne & Luanne Jaruzel

Third Saturday
Third Sunday

7:30PM
8:30AM
11:00AM

Laura Sherman
Natalie Smith
Rosie Horning, Dale & Pam Hanlin, Keith & Heidi Woolwine

Fourth Sunday

8:30AM
11:00AM

Heather & Jason Jones

Fifth Sunday

8:30AM
11:00AM

Greeter Subs – Denise Miller (871-2675), Sherry Sebert (871-3084)

Ushers Team B

8:30AM Service

Captain – Dwight Keinath
Assistant – Michael Albert
Ken Auernhammer
Corey Harry
Mitchel Ill
Colin Meacham
Daniel Meacham
Jeremy Petzold
Luke Platt
Eugene Weiss
Bud Zeck
Mike Ziegler

11AM Service

Captain – Richard Harpst
Assistant – Jay Rodammer
Mike Hoard
Heath Keinath
John Petzold
Michael Rader
Mark Rude
Hans Schmandt
Michael Sherman
Rick Sherman
Randy Wolverton
Bryan Wilson Jr.

7:30PM Service

Captain – Jim Jaruzel
Don Bierlein

Church Sextons Mathew & Angela Ayotte
Rod & Nancy Wilson

Ted & Katrina Wager
Ed & Marcia Keinath

Altar Guild Communion Set-Up

7:30PM - Lillian Sergent
8:30AM - Joyce Wager
11AM - Jan McKee

LEAP News, Memorials, Finance Report

LEAP Takes An Important Organizational Step

The Lutheran Education Advancement Plan (LEAP) implementation team made significant organizational improvements with the adoption of a constitution and by-laws forming the LEAP Alliance. This is a critical development as LEAP takes on more complex challenges. The Alliance constitution and by-laws were written with the expectation that LEAP will ultimately become a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. They were also written with the anticipation that LEAP will continue to use task forces to complete much of its work. Copies of the LEAP Alliance constitution and by-laws are available from LEAP congregational representatives or by contacting LEAP strategic implementation team chairperson Bill Hoeseman.

One area in which the opportunity for collaboration among ministries is Information Technology (IT). A recent survey revealed several opportunities for partnerships as approximately 40% of LEAP ministries "outsource" their IT support. Another 40% rely on volunteers - some of whom are seeking a place to share ideas and seek advice. Both circumstances present LEAP with the opportunity to strengthen our ministries.

One task force is in the early stages of exploring the possibility of "growing" MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) programs which have a great deal of success in several LEAP ministries. Although MOPS is not directly related to Lutheran schools, they offer young families support and spiritual nurturing - a purpose very consistent with Lutheran schools.

As LEAP transitions to a new organizational model, it is an important time to reassess its progress and future. To that end, David Near, the consultant who led the original study resulting in LEAP, has been contracted to facilitate this important "next step" discussion. His work coupled with the new organizational model will build LEAP's capacity to address more complex issues.

Regardless the organizational model, LEAP's vision will remain steady - "To advance Lutheran education for future generations across the Great Lakes Bay Region."

Good News!

A bequest in the amount of **\$83,225.39** was made to the congregation from the estate of Mrs. Evelyn Gregory, who was called home to heaven on January 24, 2013. The Voters' Assembly will determine the best use for this gift as she made no directive for the bequest.

Thrivent Choice

The **Thrivent Choice** program is a grant program that encourages members of Thrivent to recommend where a portion of their charitable funding will be distributed. If you qualify, **your Choice Dollars can be directed every quarter, or once a year.** If you haven't directed your dollars for 2015, please call Thrivent or go online to www.thrivent.com by March 31, 2016.

MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF Arno Keinath	
General Fund	\$1750.00
Building Fund	\$1750.00
IN MEMORY OF Laura Schwab	
General Fund	\$20.00
To Be Designated by Family	\$20.00
Stephens Ministry	\$10.00
IN HONOR OF Dale & Valerie Peche's 57 th Wedding Anniversary	
General Fund	\$50.00
IN MEMORY OF Harland Nelson	
General Fund	\$25.00
IN HONOR OF Lloyd & Norma Taylor's 50 th Wedding Anniversary	
General Fund	\$100.00
IN MEMORY OF Mona List	
General Fund	\$45.00
To Be Designated by Family	\$100.00

Monthly Financial Report for Congregation - Tentative General Church Account for Month Ending 9/30/15

Carryover Deficit as of 8/31/15	(\$136,506.43)
September General Fund Income	\$81,927.94
September General Fund Expenses	(\$93,205.01)
+ / - for Month of September	(\$11,277.07)
Ongoing Deficit to Date	(\$147,783.50)
+ / - For Current Fiscal Year 2015/2016 through 9/30/15 : \$9,230.68	
September Monthly Giving:	
Building Fund (Direct giving, Memorials, etc.)	\$12,874.46
Missions (District, Non-District, Memorials)	\$ 1,266.96
T.I.M. (Direct giving plus mission %)	\$ 793.52
VLHS (Direct giving plus mission %)	\$ 241.72

Serve & Volunteer / Worship for Shut-Ins / Misc.

Opportunities to Serve & Volunteer



We would love to see the **Jr. Youth Program** up and running again, but we are in need of a couple of adults to supervise/oversee the 6th – 8th graders in activities, games, snacks, etc. every other month or more if able. The Bible Study will be taken care of and we will help with the planning. If you have a passion in this area, or have ideas waiting to be shared, please call the church office and we will give you more details.

It's time to collect for the **Health Kits** again! Items needed: 2 in1 shampoo, combs, washcloths, hand towels, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, emery boards, and 25 count gallon Ziploc bags. Place donations in the cabinet in the narthex by December 15th. Thank you!

Tis the season! **The Giving Tree is up!** Please prayerfully consider taking a star or two. Note the due date on the star of when each item is due back at church. Please **DO NOT WRAP** any gifts this year, as the youth will be wrapping gifts as part of a servant project. Stars must be taped to the gift and can be brought to the church or school office by the due date. Wrapping paper, tape and monetary donations are also appreciated.

Do you know of anyone that would like to feed their animals with the leftover food we receive? We are looking for help to get rid of the food before it spoils. We are also looking for a farm wagon or trailer that could be donated or sold at a good price to use for hauling the food. Call the church office if you can help.

Sonshine Club – Once a month, some wonderful people take time out of their busy schedules to say "Thank you" and "You are appreciated" to our hard working staff and volunteers. If you would like to bring in a dish to pass or treat for our staff, please contact the school office. The next potluck is Wed., Dec. 16th.

If anyone would like to **help stuff the bulletins** on Friday mornings, please call the church office. It only takes a short amount of time - especially if we have more than one person.

Donations are needed for the **candy bags** that are distributed following the Children's Christmas Services. If you would like to donate candy (for 300 bags) or money to help defray the costs, please bring your donation to the school office or place in an envelope in the offering plate by Wed., Dec. 16th.



Luther-

an Min-

istries "Worship for Shut-Ins"

December 6th

"I Thank God - For You"
Philippians 1:3-6

December 13th

"Rejoice in the Lord"
Philippians 4:4-7

December 20th

"Christmas Lessons and Carols"
Hear the Bible's story of salvation and the birth of Jesus through Scripture and song!

December 27th

"Salvation for All"
Luke 2:29-32

GrantParents

are individuals who provide financial assistance to students at St. Paul Lutheran Millington. This assistance often makes the difference between children receiving a Christian education at St. Paul Lutheran or parents having to seek other educational options. If interested in becoming a GrantParent, please contact Brian Titsworth at (989) 871-4581.

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to place a **poinsettia on the altar for Christmas**, please sign up on the glass case in the narthex. Plants are \$15.00 each and need to be ordered by Fri., Dec. 11th.

Phone Number Changes

Reminder: If your phone number changes, please remember to let the church and school office know so we can update our records and the School Reach phone system. If you no longer wish to receive the church calls, please call the office so we can take you off the list. We are charged for this service per family and appreciate being notified when changes are made. Thank you for your cooperation!



Youth News

High School Youth Nights

Sundays from 6-8PM - All high school youth are invited.
Bring a friend or two!

Mark Your Calendar:

Soup Suppers

Dec. 2nd, 9th, & 16th

Help is needed from 4-7:30PM

Come and help out, have some fun, meet new people,
and earn money for future events!

Gift Wrapping for the Giving Tree
AND. . .

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Sun., Dec. 20th from 3-8PM

**Jr. Youth in 6th-8th Grade
are invited to this event!**

(Everyone should bring a gift -

something you no longer want or have use for.)
A good time will be waiting for you!



New Year's Eve Pizza Party!

Sun., Dec. 27th from 6-8PM

Watch for more details in the bulletin and on the 'St.
Paul Lutheran High School' Facebook page.

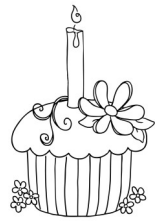


Thank you to everyone who helped make our Trunk 'N Treat a huge success! Many thanks to everyone who came early to help set up, the planning team, everyone who decorated a door and passed out candy (the doors looked great!), the youth who helped pass out candy and set up, and all the families who came - even though the weather wasn't very cooperative - we thank you!! Lots of candy was passed out and everyone had a great time. We look forward to next year!!





December Birthdays in our St. Paul Family



Deborah ILL	12/1	Lillian Sergent	12/9	Denise Miller	12/16	Larry Jensen	12/26
Kamden Keinath	12/1	Michael Tebedo	12/9	Andrew Rosebush	12/16	Connor Mason	12/26
Riley Pattinson	12/1	Andria Weakley	12/9	Lexie Swink	12/16	Kassandra Mills	12/26
Cole Ratza	12/1	Marilyn Daenzer	12/10	Susan Washburn	12/16	Anna Reinig	12/26
Izora Sergent	12/1	Elizabeth Goodhue	12/10	James Weber	12/16	Tamera Dreher	12/27
Judith Snover	12/1	Michael Lynn	12/10	Monica Lusk	12/17	Ryan Lichnovsky	12/27
Andrew Weber	12/1	Margaret Miller	12/10	Nancy Meier	12/17	Melody Payea	12/27
Taylor Wirsing	12/1	Violet Myers	12/10	Jo Anne Noyce	12/17	Marie Ross	12/27
Logan Myers	12/2	Chy Rueckert	12/10	Sarah Pobocik	12/17	Robert Fall	12/28
Delores Reinert	12/2	Scott Soderlund	12/10	Craig Reinert	12/17	Lynnette Keinath	12/28
Tyler Rude	12/2	Geraldine Blue	12/11	Angelique Babcock	12/18	Niola Leach	12/28
Zachary Simon	12/2	Dana Earl	12/11	Carol Burchett	12/18	Arlyn Marks	12/28
Jodi Torrey	12/2	Lorine Edler	12/11	Shelby Howay	12/18	William White	12/28
Jeremy Corrigan	12/3	Judith Grulke	12/11	Annette Marks	12/18	Mathew Ayotte	12/29
Tonya Daenzer	12/3	Jeffrey Johnston	12/11	Susan Morrow	12/18	Floyd Harsen	12/29
Dawn Knoll	12/3	Janette Keinath	12/11	Karri Smith	12/18	Cameron Henderson	12/29
Ashley Koch	12/3	Karl Ramsey	12/11	Bradlee Snyder	12/18	James Rude	12/29
Melissa Sandusky	12/3	Terry Reinbold	12/11	Brody Willson	12/18	Marvin Schiefer	12/29
Kara Stevens	12/3	Timothy Rueger	12/11	Ricks Anderson	12/19	Alexis Sutton	12/29
Sarah Waterman	12/3	Kimberly Sergent	12/11	Nicholas Borcharding	12/19	Erwin Weber	12/29
Debra Hazel	12/4	Irene Smith	12/11	Sandra Brow	12/19	Lideth Brueggemann	12/30
Lori Kowitz	12/4	Sandra St. Onge	12/11	Dane Coleman	12/19	Ira Ewald	12/30
Holly Leach	12/4	Jason Stewart	12/11	Karrie Colman	12/19	Shannon Keinath	12/30
Daniel Petzold	12/4	Bo Schember	12/12	Paul Rogers	12/19	Amanda Marks	12/30
Stephen Roggentine	12/4	Michelle Stewart	12/12	Sandy Shamel	12/19	Jami Petzold	12/30
Brad Sayles	12/4	Linda Windt	12/12	Marie Trinklein	12/19	Kristina Soteropoulos	12/30
Michael Titsworth	12/4	Logan Wirsing	12/12	Chase Gulette	12/20	Jeff Staple	12/30
Eric Galant	12/5	Deborah Bierlein	12/13	Steven Holmes Sr.	12/20	Donna Torrey	12/30
Daniel Karcher	12/5	Frances Carnet	12/13	Alexis Hudie	12/20	Danny Brandle	12/31
Amy Opperman	12/5	Christopher Jensen	12/13	Holli Johnson	12/20	Brody Germain	12/31
Theda Sebert	12/5	Sayer Puzjak	12/13	Allan Marks	12/20	Dean Mason	12/31
William Woodward	12/5	Gerry Smith II	12/13	Chester Petzold	12/20	John Osborn	12/31
Scott Jensen	12/6	Ashtyn Stewart	12/13	Seth Sundberg	12/20	Kenneth Soderlund	12/31
Kari Johnston	12/6	Amy Casto	12/14	Norma Taylor	12/20	Teresa Walter	12/31
Diane Leach	12/6	Tyler Lichnovsky	12/14	Richard Coon	12/21		
Nathaniel Wood	12/6	Michael Lyons	12/14	Megan Curtis	12/21		
Linda Conrad	12/7	Alison Reinig	12/14	Julie Rude	12/21		
Richard Daniel	12/7	Dennis Schmidt	12/14	Trenton Weber	12/21		
Connie Keinath	12/7	Donna J. Weber	12/14	Jacquelyn Petzold	12/22		
Angelica Powell	12/7	Ireva Wolverton	12/14	Sarah Brown	12/23		
Rylyn Roth	12/7	John Allard	12/15	Larry Kammer	12/23		
Elizabeth Selich	12/7	Robert Baker	12/15	Marlene Keipinger	12/23		
Candice Tatro	12/7	Karen Bruner	12/15	Alexander Kern	12/23		
Molly Wolfington	12/7	Melissa Hager	12/15	Rhonda Nielson	12/23		
Lisa Balcer	12/8	Cherri Herrick	12/15	Sheila Peche	12/23		
Carol Weber	12/8	Dylan Horning	12/15	Christine Jaruzel	12/24		
Mary White	12/8	Jonah Horning	12/15	Judith Lichnovsky	12/24		
Grace Adamic	12/9	Nicolas Horning	12/15	Billie Loper	12/24		
Matthew Allen	12/9	Eden Johnson	12/15	Arnold Petzold	12/24		
Kaitlyn Burton	12/9	Doris Meier	12/15	Gary Wagner	12/24		
Danielle DeOrnellas	12/9	Aaron O'Connor	12/15	Kalie Weakley	12/24		
David Janowski	12/9	Harvey Schiefer	12/15	Jena Petzold	12/25		
Joshua Keinath	12/9	Cheryl Anderson	12/16	Linda Schmidt	12/25		
Joshua Petzold	12/9	Reagan Hoard	12/16	Stephen Erickson	12/26		
Michelle Sayles	12/9	William Kirby	12/16	Gerald Higgins	12/26		

*God's Richest Blessings
on Your Birthday!*



St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
4941 W. Center St.
Millington, MI 48746

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**December
2015**



Upcoming Special Services

Advent Services:

Wed., Dec. 2nd - 4PM & 7PM

Wed., Dec. 9th - 4PM & 7PM

Wed., Dec. 16th - 4PM & 7PM

*Soup Suppers each Wednesday during
Advent from 5-6:30PM
Free will donation*

Christmas Choir Concert:

Sunday, Dec. 6th - 4PM

Fiesta Dinner Following Concert

Children's Christmas Services:

Sunday, Dec. 20th - 4PM

Thursday, Dec. 24th - 6PM

Christmas Eve Service:

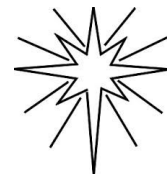
Candlelight - 9PM

Christmas Day Service: 10AM +Communion

No Saturday Worship Service on Dec. 26th

New Year's Eve Service: 7PM +Communion

No Saturday Worship Service on Jan. 2nd



December 2015

St. Paul Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Picture Retakes 9-11AM Storyhour 1-3PM quilting 6PM Painting & Get Fit 6PM Evangelism 7:30 PM AA	2 Advent 4 & 7 PM Men's Choir 5-6:30PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Yoga 6:30PM Social Concerns 6:53 Choir 8PM Council	3 Book Fair 6:15 Praise Team	4 Book Fair	5 Book Fair 10:30-4PM Pictures Fiesta Dinner Prep 7:30PM Worship
6 Pledge Drive 8:30AM Worship+C 9:45AM Bible Study/Sunday School Adult Instruction Class 11AM Worship 4PM Choir Concert 6-8PM H.S. Youth	7 Christmas in the Village MMR Caroling 7PM Handbells	8 9-11AM Storyhour 1-3PM quilting 6PM Painting & Get Fit 6PM Board of Ed. 7:30 PM AA	9 Advent 4 & 7 PM Cantata 5-6:30PM Soup Supper No Choir	10 12PM Glenn Brown Wedding 6PM Get Fit 6:15PM Praise Team	11	12 7:30AM Men's Bible Study 9-7 Scrapbooking 7:30PM Worship+C
13 8:30AM Worship+C Handbells 9:45AM Bible Study/Sunday School Adult Instruction Class 11AM Worship Handbells 130 Voters Meeting 6PM MMA Candle Walk/Carols-Church of God 6-8PM H.S. Youth	14 7PM Stephen Ministry 7PM Handbells	15 9-11AM Storyhour 1-3PM quilting 6PM Painting & Get Fit 7:30 PM AA	16 Messenger Deadline Advent 4 & 7 PM Free Spirit 5-6:30PM Soup Supper 6PM Choir	17 6PM Get Fit 6:15PM Praise Team 6:30 Oils of the Bible	18	19 7:30PM Worship
20 8:30AM Worship+C <i>Church Choir</i> 9:45AM Bible Study/Sunday School Adult Instruction Class 11AM Worship <i>Contemporary</i> 4PM Children's Service 3-8 H.S. Youth	21 6PM Giving Tree Gift Packing 7 PM Handbells	22 9-11AM Storyhour 1-3PM quilting 6PM Painting & Get Fit 7:30 PM AA 10-5 Giving Tree Pick up	23 No School 7PM Choir 7:30 Elders	24 6PM Children's Service 9PM Candlelight	25 Christmas Day 10:00AM Worship+C <i>Church Choir/Handbells/Brass</i>	26 No Worship Service
27 8:30AM Worship+C 9:45AM Bible Study/Sunday School Adult Instruction Class 11AM Worship 6-8PM H.S. Youth	28 7PM Stephen Ministry	29 6PM Get Fit 7:30 PM AA	30	31 7PM Worship+c		



St. Paul Lutheran School

December 2015

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

Colossians 2:6-7

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Was Born

As we begin December, let us prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of our Lord; not only His first coming as a baby long ago but also for His second coming when He shall reign forever!

Important December Dates

Dec. 1	School Picture Retake Day	
Dec. 2	Advent Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 2-6	Scholastic 2 for 1 Book Fair	
Dec. 4	Wear your school theme shirt	
Dec. 6	St. Paul Christmas Concert	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Advent Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 16	Advent Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 20	Children's Christmas Service	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 22	Chapel service, last day of class before Christmas Break	
Dec. 23- Jan. 3	Christmas Vacation	
Dec. 24	Children's Christmas Service	6:00 p.m.



Practices for the Children's Christmas programs start on Dec. 7th. Practice times and dates are available in the school office. If you are able to stay with students not practicing please contact your child's teacher or school office as soon as possible.

As the giving season approaches, we are looking forward to giving monetary gifts to the janitors and cooks. Please consider helping us by placing your donation in an envelope marked Cooks & Janitors Christmas then giving it to the school office.

Christmas candy bags will once again be given out to the children after the Children's Christmas Services. If you would like to donate candy (for 300 bags) or money to help defray the costs, please take your donation to the school office no later than Dec. 16th. Thanks for your help!

If there is a school delay or cancellation, you will see notifications on any of the major television or radio stations and through the School Reach phone system.



School Musical Opportunities

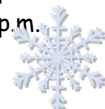
Dec. 6	Church Christmas Concert: all school choirs, Junior Bells, Band,	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Cantate Choir	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Free Spirit Choir	4:00 p.m.



Spartan Sports Our basketball season for boys and girls on the B-teams finishes up this month. The girls start the play followed by the boys. Come and support the children as they use their God-given talents.

December Girl's & Boy's B-team Basketball

Dec. 1	at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 4	at St. Paul, Lapeer	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 11	with St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 15	at Christ the King, Sebawaing	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	at St. Michaels, Richville	6:00 p.m.



Blessings to you and your family from the St. Paul Lutheran Church and School faculty and staff!