



# Monthly Messenger

## St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

December 2016

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

### St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

4941 W. Center St.  
Millington, MI 48746

989-871-4581

[www.stpaul-millington.org](http://www.stpaul-millington.org)

Email: [church.office@spsmill.org](mailto:church.office@spsmill.org)

Rev. James Bruner  
Rev. Kirk Abatelli

#### Worship Services

Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
Saturday 7:30 P.M.

#### Bible Study

Sunday 10:00 A.M.  
Wednesday 9:00 A.M.

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### A Message from Pastor Bruner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Would you deny yourself something that gives life and hope in abundance? Honestly, I know that **I do** and I know better.

*"He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him"* (John 1:11).

Advent and Christmas remind us about the importance of the Word of God and the Son of God, who is the Word made flesh and blood. He came to dwell (or live) within us each day, but we so easily exclude Him and His Word. That is a big dose of guilt heaped on us. Why would you want to read any more of this article? Please continue.

There is such a great blessing to our faith when we read or listen to the Word of God. Since the invention of the Gutenberg press, printed copies of the Bible have become more easily available to us. We are now blessed with yet another advance in technology. For those who have internet or portable electronic devices, there is a free application. You can go to [Youversion.com](http://Youversion.com) and download the Bible app sponsored by Life.Church. This will allow you to read the Bible electronically or have it read to you in most translations. Our Michigan District has also been able to post a special reading plan called "Reformation – Crafted by the Word." The reading plan provides a look into the Scriptures that the early Reformers found helpful in shaping their faith and actions. With that being said, I urge you to set a

goal to be in the Word of God more in the coming year(s).

*"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God." Jesus said, "...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."* (John 1:12 ESV, John 10:10b ESV, Rom. 15:4 NIV-84)

God promises you and me life and hope in abundance, as He speaks to our hearts and strengthens our faith through His Word - Jesus.

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

Pastor Jim Bruner  
1 John 4:10-11



The December Messenger is sponsored by Erna Reinert,  
in thanksgiving for family, children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren.

# Spiritual News

## **9:45AM Sunday Adult Bible Studies**

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

**Psalms** – Led by Pastor Bruner in the library. “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” Eph. 5:19a We all face a variety of situations in life. This Bible Study will look at the book of **Psalms** and how they speak to us and others. Learn what **Psalms** can be helpful in talking to someone else as they face good and bad situations. Discover how God wants to speak to us and bring us hope in Jesus, so we can “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.” Eph. 5:19b

**Adult Instruction Class** - Led by Pastor Abatelli in the Multi-purpose room. Everyone is invited to “The Real Truth.” In this class, we will look at the myths about Christ and His teachings, and then explore the truth about Christ and His teachings.

**Advent Family Bible Study** - *The Christmas Experience* is a six-week Bible Study that examines the Christmas season. Each episode includes a video presentation that will focus on how God chose each individual in the Christmas story for a specific purpose. Families and individuals participating in *The Christmas Experience* study will be able to find themselves in the Christmas story, as they learn that what happened then changes everything now. Please join us at 10AM in the Projects Room.

### **Other Bible Studies**

#### **Daily Lectionary**

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

#### **Men’s Morning Bible Study**

**\*\*Date Change\*\***

Sat., December 10th, at 7:30AM in the Library.  
Join us the first Saturday of each month.  
Coffee & goodies provided!

#### **Heroes Men’s Bible Study**

Led by Pastor Abatelli Tues., December 13th at 7:30PM in the Library.

## **Scripture Readings**

### **December 4th**

*Isaiah 11: 1-10*

*Romans 15: 4-13*

*Matthew 3: 1-12*

### **December 11th**

*Isaiah 35: 1-10*

*James 5: 7-11*

*Matthew 11: 2-15*

### **December 18th**

*Isaiah 7: 10-17*

*Romans 1: 1-7*

*Matthew 1: 18-25*

### **December 25th**

*Isaiah 52: 7-10*

*Hebrews 1: 1-6*

*John 1: 1-14*

## **December Meetings**

### **Evangelism**

Thurs., December 1st at 7:15PM

### **Stewardship**

Tues., December 6th at 7PM

### **Social Concerns**

Wed., December 7th at 6:30PM

### **Council**

Wed., December 7th at 8PM

### **Board of Education**

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

### **Voters’ Assembly**

**Sun., December 11th at 1:30PM**

### **Trustees**

Sun., December 11th after Voters

### **Stephen Ministry**

Mon., December 12th & 19th at 7PM

### **Dorcas**

No Meeting

### **Salary & Personnel**

Mon., December 19th at 7PM

### **Elders**

Wed., December 28th at 7:30PM

## **Music**



### **Handbells**

Mondays at 7PM in the church.

### **Church Choir**

Wednesdays at 6:53PM  
in the school music room.

### **Praise Team**

Thursdays at 6:15PM  
Singers and instrumentalists welcome  
to join any time!



# Happenings at St. Paul

## Tuesdays at St. Paul

### Storyhour

**Storyhour** for preschoolers Tuesdays from 9-11AM in the nursery. Everyone welcome – no need to register.

### Quilting

**\*\*Note - There will be NO Quilting in December.** Enjoy the time to prepare for Christmas! We will resume in January.

### Painting Class

Tuesdays from 6-8PM in the Projects Room

### Get Fit

Tuesdays at 6:15PM in the Library

### AA Meetings

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

## Breakfast Club

**Breakfast Club** is a great opportunity for high school students to hear a devotion and get free breakfast every Friday at 7AM at the Millington High School. St. Paul is on a rotating host schedule with five other groups and we are hosting **Friday, Dec. 9th**. To help offset the cost, we could use donations of **soft flour taco shells, ground sausage, eggs, orange juice, and chocolate milk**. Any amount will be helpful – or monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office. Another easy way to volunteer is by preparing the breakfast. We will have the food items, you just need to cook it, have it ready and to the high school by 7AM. If you can spare an hour or so, please call the church office. Thank you!

## Scrapbooking

Sat., December 10th 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](mailto:school.office@spsmill.org). *SCRAPBOOKING MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME...JESUS MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER!*

## CPR

**CPR Classes** are being offered by Kassie Ducharme once a month at St. Paul. The next one is Sat., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 11AM in the library. Go to [milifesavers.enrollware.com/enroll?id=1377634](http://milifesavers.enrollware.com/enroll?id=1377634) to sign up.

## Blood Drive

Save the date and a life! **Blood Drive** Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> in the Library. We will earn \$10.00 for every person who attempts to donate.

## Voters' Meeting

Sun., Dec. 11th at 1:30PM  
Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Messenger/Calendar Deadline Friday, December 16th

## The Gathering

We will resume Wed., Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, and then meet again on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>. Have a blessed Christmas season!

**Area News** – See the glass case in narthex for more details.

**Andersen Martial Arts** invites you to try Tang Soo Do Tuesday nights at Kirk Elementary Cafeteria, Millington from 6-8PM or Saturday mornings at St. Paul, Mayville from 10AM-12PM. \$40 for 8 weeks. Call 989-843-6233 for more info.

**Breakfast with Santa** Sat., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30-10:30AM at the Millington Community Center. Cookie Walk, Craft, & Decorate a Cookie – Santa will see you there! Adults: \$5, Children \$3, Under 5: Free

**All You Can Eat Cod** Fri., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> from 11AM-2PM and 4-7PM at St. Martin, Birch Run. Adults: \$10, 5-12: \$7, Under 5: Free.

**Christmas Anniversary Celebration** Sat., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 1PM at the Arbela Hall. Please call Helen at 871-2201 to RSVP. If you wish to participate in the auction, bring a wrapped gift to donate. Proceeds go to benefit the museum.

**Candles & Carols** hosted by the Millington Ministerial Alliance Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Millington Church of God. Desserts and goodies are needed. Please bring to the Church of God.

**St. Mary's** is seeking magazine donations for hospital waiting room. Please bring any magazines from the last six months to the hospital front desk, volunteer services office, or the gift shop. Any address info will be concealed.

## St. Paul Happenings!

Check out all the activities going on in our school and church. Lots of pictures are on the bulletin board outside the Council Room. They can also be found on our St. Paul Facebook page.

For  
**UNTO**  
Us a  
*Child*  
Is **BORN**  
Isaiah 9:6

# Thank You / Election Results / Grant / CEF

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**

**Our HALL-o-ween event was a huge success!** So many people were key to making this happen, and **we thank you!** Many thanks to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders for their awesome door decorating and to everyone else who came to decorate a door and/or hand out candy. This was a great outreach and many people from the community were involved. We made over 300 children happy and gave them a warm, safe place to trick or treat. Thank you to the following for donating candy: ADS US Inc., The Abatelli Family, All American Animal House, Anonymous Donations, Dale & Geri Blue, Board of Social Concerns, The Bruner Family, C & C Stylez, Carquest, Country Shoppes, Fairway, Hanlin Funeral Home, Millington Chamber of Commerce, Millington Insurance, Millington Pizza, Greg & Lisa Mohr, David Rogers, Roots Heating & Cooling, Thrivent, Jim & Cindy Weber, Worth's Market; Vassar True Value for letting us use their digital sign, and St. Paul PTL for the popcorn. We look forward to next year! -The Youth Team

**Thank you** to the Altar Guild, Marie Ross, Marvin Schiefer, and Tim Hammerbacher for funding and refurbishing the glass case in the narthex. It looks great!

Dear Friends of Life at St. Paul Lutheran,  
**Thank you** for partnering with Positive Alternatives for the 2016 Baby Bottle Boomerang. Bottles are the largest fundraiser the pregnancy center sponsors all year. This year your church family raised \$448.83 for this life saving ministry. Your spare change is changing lives one at a time.

God Bless, April Schmidt, Positive Alternatives

I have a grateful heart. **Thank you** once again for all the expressions of gratitude during pastor appreciation month. October was filled with blessings from God and from so many of you. Your cards and gifts spoke to my heart and it is from my heart that I thank you. The Apostle Paul said it well, "I **thank Christ Jesus our Lord**, who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service" (1 Tim. 1:12). I am blessed to serve among you.

**Thank you** to the St. Paul Lutheran Church servants of God who have helped other members who are sight impaired so we can still take part in worshipping. Thanks for what they have done to help us, who can't see the words on the screen, whether it is printing up the order of service, the hymns, or the pastors repeating the hymn numbers before singing them. For it says in 2 Corinthians 9:12 "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." Thank You, Lord – Bless them all!

**Thank you** to all who have participated in joining together as God's people at "The Gathering." Due to the Advent services, we will not be "Gathering" in December. We will resume Wed., Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, and then meet again on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>. Have a blessed Christmas season! Remember – you matter to God and you matter to me, Pastor Bruner

**A Huge Shout Out** to all the people who have helped decorate the church for the holidays! From the Thanksgiving Altar to the Christmas Altar, the Christmas trees, garland and wreaths – you all have done a wonderful job! Thank you for giving your time to help make the church a beautiful place to worship. You are all appreciated!

## **2017 Church Election Results**

### **President:**

Edward Sergent

### **Board of Elders:**

Tim Brown, Kenny McKee, Tim Sergent

### **Board of Education:**

Jay Rodammer, Kent Singer

### **Budget Director:**

Brian Rondy

### **Board of Social Concerns:**

Barb Bassett, LuAnn Jaruzel, Shelli Lugg

### **Board of Stewardship:**

Heather Jones, Luke Platt, Kristy Sherman

### **Board of Trustees:**

Mike Blue, Dan Brandle, Jon Keinath

### **Salary & Personnel:**

Valerie Dennis, Duane Weber, Becky Wolfington

### **Memorials Treasurer:**

Lillian Sergent

## **Aesthetic Grant Program**

We received a flyer from the Church Extension Fund (CEF) advising us they have funds available to beautify the church and school!

The funds are in the form of a reimbursement grant up to \$2,000 per congregation, *plus* an additional 10% of the amount expended over the initial grant of \$2,000. Maximum grant per congregation is \$20,000.

What does that mean in English? If approved, CEF will reimburse the church at 100% for expenditures up to \$2,000. Anything over \$2,000 they'll throw in an additional 10%. Say we have a project that costs \$5,000: CEF will reimburse the initial \$2,000 plus another \$300 for a total of \$2,300.

The grant program is designed for cosmetic facility improvements – not maintenance.

This grant program expires 12/31/17 so we have some time. Please let a Trustee know what type of enhancement you'd like to see in the church and/or school so we can bring ideas to the Voter's Meetings.

## **CEF BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT**

As of 11/30/16, our

Building Mortgage Principal Balance is: \$927,576.42.

Consider giving a year end gift to St. Paul to continue to help share the Word of God.

## **Offering Envelopes**

**2017 Offering Envelopes** are in the narthex. Remember – do not use until January. Thank you!

**Reverend Kirk Abatelli**  
**10th Anniversary in the Ministry**

Reverend Kirk Abatelli is the son of Frances (Licari) Schaefer and Craig Abatelli. He was born on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1979 at Southside Hospital on Long Island, New York. In 1998, he attended York College of Pennsylvania, studying Criminal Justice. After prayers and guidance from other Christians, he realized God was calling him into the ministry. In 2000, he transferred to Concordia University Ann Arbor, Michigan to prepare for the seminary. After graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, he went to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri to receive a degree in Masters of Divinity.

While at the seminary, Pastor Abatelli aided and served at Zion Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, Missouri, Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Edwardsville, Illinois, and Gethsemane Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri by preaching, teaching, visiting hospitals, and sharing God's Word. He also took part in witnessing at a juvenile detention center and prison ministry in Illinois, and a Cross Cultural Ministry at Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Missouri. He received his vicarage assigned in 2004, to serve Saint Peter's Lutheran Church and School in Waterford, Wisconsin. After completing his assignment, he went back to Concordia Seminary to complete his Master's degree.

After graduating in 2006, Pastor Abatelli received his first call to Cedar Crest Lutheran Church in White Lake, Michigan and was ordained on June 18, 2006. He served Cedar Crest Lutheran for three years before receiving the call at Saint Paul Lutheran Church and School in Millington, Michigan. In 2009, Pastor Kirk Abatelli accepted the call to serve as Associate Pastor at Saint Paul Lutheran. He has been serving Saint Paul for over seven years by preaching, teaching and sharing God's Word and administering the Sacraments. He also is assisting with the Lutheran Education Advancement Plan on various topics. The greatest joy in the ministry Pastor Abatelli has is sharing and uplifting others in God's Word in a unique way.

After his first year at Concordia Seminary on May 31, 2003, Pastor Abatelli and Katie Brandt were joined in marriage. After three years of marriage they were blessed with their first child, Jacob William, on October 20, 2006. About three years later God blessed them again with Madelyn Elaine on June 2, 2009.

Pastor Abatelli's favorite Scripture verse is Romans 4:5, "To the one who does not work, but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness."



**Would you consider opening your hearts...**

to families who want their children to receive a St. Paul Christian education but perhaps cannot afford the rising costs? The "**Grantparent**" Program is designed to ease the financial burden for struggling parents, but it is in need of ongoing funds. If you are able to help financially to continue St. Paul's long-standing heritage of supporting this important mission to our families, please prayerfully follow God's "nudging" by contacting the school office. You may donate for general tuition funding or to a specific student. Thank-you in advance for blessing our children with your prayers and support.



## Bookkeeper's Corner / Special Services

### The Bookkeeper's Corner

By Diane Mills  
Finance@spmill.org

Fundraising activities are in full swing and when profit is made, the State of Michigan wants its cut.

**"But it's a fundraiser for a worthy cause, and we're tax exempt – are you kidding?"**

Odd as it sounds, even tax exempt organizations are subject to the 6% Michigan tax sales because we are *reselling tangible items or selling items for human consumption (as in food)*. Let's break this down.

**What is a tangible item?** Any item that you can physically give to another person is a tangible item. For example – if the Dorcas ladies sell a quilt at the bazaar, that item can be physically given to the recipient so the State taxes that item. Conversely, during the Auction we auctioned harp lessons. The lessons cannot be physically given to the recipient, but rather it's a service. So we're not taxed on that item.

**So, we sell food – how come some is taxed and some is not?** The State has very explicit guidelines on what food is taxed, and what is not. In essence, if it's hot, it's usually taxed. If it requires an eating utensil, it's usually taxed. If you supply a napkin it's usually taxed (I can't make this stuff up). Cookies during the cookie walk, pies sold whole, and pasties *when not assembled at the church* are tax exempt.

In the end, the Board/Committee/group that is hosting the fundraiser will have the applicable tax amount subtracted from their profits before they can realize the true profit. The actual State of Michigan rules can be reviewed as part of the Event Form in the wall organizer outside the Bookkeeping office.

### Altar Flowers

The **2017 Flower Chart** is hanging in the hallway between the church mailboxes. When signing up for altar flowers, please write your name, phone number, and center or side vases. You are responsible for calling the florist of your choice and also calling the church office for your bulletin article. Thank you!

### Messenger Sponsors

**Messenger sponsors** are needed for 2017. The cost is now \$75.00 per month. Please call the church office if interested.

JOY  
to the world

## *St. Paul Lutheran Church*

*Rev. James Bruner - Rev. Kirk Abatelli*

### Weekend Service Times

*Saturdays at 7:30PM*

*Sundays at 8:30AM & 11:00AM*

### Special Services

#### *Advent Services*

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

*Wed., Dec. 14th - 4PM & 7PM*

*"Don't Worry, Really?" is the theme we will examine during our Advent midweek services. Each week we will look at the worries of life and the comfort God provides. The theme will take us on a journey through the past, to the present and the future. Week one will look at the worries of God's people as they waited for Him to come as promised. The second week will address the worries we have each day of being unprepared, and how Mary and Joseph had worries when God's Son came the first time. Our final week will share the worries and temptations we face until Jesus comes on the last Day. Join us each week during the season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the Lord to come and see how he drives worries out of our hearts.*

#### *Christmas Choir Concert*

*Sunday, Dec. 4th - 4PM*

*Fiesta Dinner Following*

*Freewill Donation - Proceeds go to the 7th grade class for their D.C. trip.*

#### *Children's Christmas Services*

*Wed., Dec. 21st - 6PM*

*Sat., Dec. 24th - 6PM*



#### *Christmas Eve Service*

*Candlelight - 9PM*

#### *Christmas Day Services*

*8:30AM with communion*

*11AM Contemporary with communion*

*New Year's Eve Service - 7:30PM*

#### *New Year's Day Services*

*8:30AM with communion & 11AM*

# Youth News

## High School Youth Events

### **Make Your Own Pizza Party**

Sunday, December 11th from 6-8PM

Create your own pizza –  
with unique or original toppings!  
If you want a certain topping,  
post it on the Facebook page  
so we can try to have it for you.

We'll also be decorating cookies for dessert!



### **Jr. and Sr. Youth**

### **Gift Wrapping & Youth Night**

Sunday, December 18th

All 6th – 12th graders are invited!

Bring a friend too!

We will start at 4PM and wrap gifts  
for the Giving Tree.

After that we will have pizza & drinks  
and a White Elephant Gift Exchange.



### **New Year's Day Party**

Sunday, January 1st

### **High School Youth – 6-9PM**

Come and celebrate the New Year  
with a balloon drop and plenty of your  
favorite snacky foods!



### **Starting in January,**

High School Youth nights will go back to  
every Sunday from 6-8PM.

Some upcoming events will be a Movie Night,  
Youth Olympics, Game Night, and more!

Watch the Facebook page for details  
on all the upcoming events!

## Jr. Youth Events

### **Gift Wrapping & Youth Night**

Sunday, December 18th

All 6th – 12th graders are invited!

Bring a friend too!

We will start at 4PM and wrap gifts  
for the Giving Tree.

After that we will have pizza & drinks  
and a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

### **New Year's Day Party**

Sunday, January 1st

**Jr. Youth – 4-6PM**



Come and celebrate the New Year  
with a balloon drop and plenty of  
your favorite snacky foods!



## High School Youth Basketball



Did you know St. Paul is part of the Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) Basketball League? The season begins in January and our team plays other area churches. This is a good opportunity to practice your skills and join in fellowship with other high schoolers. **Players are needed!** This is open to both males and females.

We're also looking for a **coach** for the team. If you want to play, or are interested in coaching, please call the church office 871-4581. We'll give you a call when we have more details.

## Valley Lutheran High School

### Honor Roll

3.7+

Tyler Bentley  
Pierce Force  
Sterling Force  
Katherine Weber  
Abigail Brown

3.25-3.69

Justin Allen  
Serena Petzold

**Great job to all!**

## Serve & Volunteer / Memorials / / Misc.

### MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF Donald Kischnick General Fund	\$20.00
IN MEMORY OF Mary Ann Krafft General Fund	\$20.00
IN MEMORY OF Duane Russell General Fund	\$45.00
Building Fund	\$25.00
IN MEMORY OF Vera Kern Building Fund	\$100.00
Grant Parent Fund	\$ 65.00
Seminarian Fund - Tim Kern	\$ 20.00
IN MEMORY OF Steve Foley General Fund	\$170.00
GIFT TO Seminarian Fund	\$ 50.00

### Did You Know?

You can have your church offerings electronically deposited from your account. Simply complete the "Excel in Giving" enrollment form specifying the amounts and frequency of payments. Forms can be found in the narthex or church office. Call the church office if questions.

### Check Writing

When **writing checks** to St. Paul, please use blue or black ink. We've had some issues with the bank not being able to read and cash them. Thank you!

### Books for Sale

The Altar Guild has copies of **Rudy Petzold's book "Reflections of a Country Publisher"** for sale in the glass case. If you would like a copy, they can be purchased after services, or call the church office.

### Christmas Poinsettias



If you would like to place a **poinsettia** on the altar for Christmas, sign up on the glass case in the narthex by Mon., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Plants are \$15.00 and available in red or white. Add your name, number, bulletin wording and color choice. This is also a **fund-raiser for the Washington D.C.**

trip. If you would like to order a plant for your home or as a gift, call the church office or find a 7<sup>th</sup> grader to place your order.

### Opportunities to Serve, Volunteer, and Donate

#### Rescue Mission

The second Saturday of every month **we have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus** by preparing and serving meals at the City Rescue Mission of Saginaw-must be 14 or older. Our next opportunity will be December 10<sup>th</sup>. Arrival at the Mission is 10AM and we finish before 2PM. Monetary donations are welcomed and needed for sack lunches. Anyone wishing to help pack lunches may come to the St. Paul kitchen on Fri., December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM. If you are willing to help any month, please contact Paul Schoenknecht 871-2280. Thank you.

#### Toy Donations

Please consider donating new toys to Jacob and Maddie Abatelli's toy drive to benefit the children spending this Christmas at The Children's Hospital of Detroit. The toys can be dropped off at Pastor Abatelli's office from now through December 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you so much for helping to brighten the Christmas of a sick child. No stuffed animals, please.

#### Shut In Gifts

The Dorcas ladies are collecting items for "**25 Days of Christmas**" to deliver to sheltered people. Items needed: 5 hand towels, 16 shampoo, 12 deodorant, 4 combs, 13 toothpaste. Please place in the box in the wooden cabinet in the narthex by Mon., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

#### Giving Tree

The **Giving Tree** is in the narthex. Please take a star or two and bring NEW, unwrapped gifts to the church office by the due date on the star (Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>). Please limit gifts to \$25. Monetary donations are also appreciated and can be placed in an envelope marked "Giving Tree" and put in the offering plate or brought to one of the office. 6-8" Cookie tins are also needed so we can give each family homemade cookies. We will be **wrapping the gifts** on Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. Everyone is welcome to come and help be a Christmas elf! Pizza and drinks provided!

#### Staff Gift

If you would like to show your appreciation for the St. Paul staff, please 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 Mon., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Please remember, this is not a tax deductible gift and will not be recorded on your giving statement.

#### Candy Bags

Every year we distribute candy bags following the Children's Christmas Service. If you would like to donate candy or money to help defray the costs, please bring your donation to one of the offices of place in an envelope marked "Candy Bags" by Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.



# Daily Lectionary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2016 Daily Lectionary LSB pp. 299-304		Meditation from: <u>A Year in the New Testament</u> , cph, 2010. – December 24 – The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve				
<u>4</u> Is 10:12-27a, 33-34 2 Pt 1:1-21 Ps 145:1-9	<u>5</u> Is 11:1 -- 12:6 2 Pt 2:1-22 Ps 49:5-12, 15	<u>6</u> Is 14:1-23 2 Pt 3:1-18 Ps 56:1-2, 5-11, 13	<u>7</u> Is 24:1-13 1 Jn 1:1 -- 2:14 Ps 25:1-7	<u>8</u> Is 24:14 -- 25:12 1 Jn 2:15-29 Ps 11	<u>9</u> Is 26:1-19 1 Jn 3:1-24 Ps 17:6-15	<u>10</u> Is 26:20 -- 27:13 1 Jn 4:1-21 Ps 86:1-7
<u>11</u> Is 28:14-29 1 Jn 5:1-21 Ps 5:1-8	<u>12</u> Is 29:1-14 Jude 1-25 Ps 106:1-5	<u>13</u> Is 29:15 -- 30:14 RV 1:1-20 Ps 89:20-29	<u>14</u> Is 30:15-26 RV 2:1-29 Ps 27:1, 4-5, 11-14	<u>15</u> Is 30:27 -- 31:9 RV 3:1-22 Ps 146:1-7	<u>16</u> Is 32:1-20 RV 4:1-11 Ps 149	<u>17</u> Is 33:1-24 RV 5:1-14 Ps 40:1-5, 16-17
<u>18</u> Is 34:1-2, 8 - 35:10 RV 6:1-17 Ps 119:81-88	<u>19</u> Is 40:1-17 RV 7:1-17 Ps 103:11-18	<u>20</u> Is 40:18 -- 41:10 RV 8:1-13 Ps 119:25-32	<u>21</u> Is 42:1-25 RV 9:1-12 Ps 102:24-28	<u>22</u> Is 43:1-24 RV 9:13 -- 10:11 Ps 115:1-8, 11	<u>23</u> Is 43:25 -- 44:20 RV 11:1-19 Ps 39:4-8	<u>24</u> Is 44:21 -- 45:13, 20-25 <b>RV 12:1-17</b> Ps 98:1-6, 9
<u>25</u> Is 49:1-18 Mt 1:1-17 Ps 96:1-5, 11-13	<u>26</u> Is 49:22-26; 50:4 -- 51:8, 12-16 Mt 1:18-25 Ps 34:4-10, 19	<u>27</u> Is 51:17 -- 52:12 Mt 2:1-12 Ps 72:1, 4, 10-15, 18-19	<u>28</u> Is 52:13 -- 54:10 Mt 2:13-23 Ps 9:11-14	<u>29</u> Is 55:1-13 Lk 1:1-25 Ps 78:1-7	<u>30</u> Is 58:1 -- 59:3, 14-21 Lk 1:26-38 Ps 89:1-4, 14-18	<u>31</u> Is 60:1-22 Lk 1:39-56 Ps 111:1-6, 10

Tonight in worship we will again hear the Christmas Gospel. Mary and Joseph, the baby in the manger, shepherds watching their flocks by night, the heavenly host—it's all so familiar to us. Revelation 12 is not an appointed Scripture reading for any Christmas service but could be, for it reminds us of the unseen realities of Christ's birth. As soon as Christ was born, the devil sought to destroy Him. On this holy night, the Son of God entered the battlefield. Mary holds her baby in her arms; the scene appears peaceful and serene, but the greatest battle ever has begun.

It wouldn't take long for Satan to strike. He used King Herod to attempt to kill this newborn King. God hid Jesus and His earthly family in Egypt until Herod died. This struggle would continue throughout our Lord's life and ministry and reach its climax on the cross. On Mount Calvary, Jesus conquered the devil. He prevailed by His death. The result is that Satan has been cast out of heaven.

This is good news for you. Since Satan has been thrown down from heaven, he can no longer accuse you before God. In the Old Testament era, Satan was allowed into God's presence, but that changed at the cross. He has been hurled down from heaven. Additionally, since Christ conquered the devil, we, too, conquer him. The strength to conquer is not from within, for by ourselves we would surely fail. Instead, we overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of the testimony. Through Christ and His Word, the victory is ours.

But there's also some bad news. The devil knows he's defeated. He has no doubt what his future holds. He knows his time is short, so he now pursues the woman. He goes after the Church, believers, you! Until the end, the devil will pursue those who belong to the Lamb. He will tempt you. He will attack you. He will seek to destroy your faith.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior..." (Lk 2:11). Even at His birth, Jesus is your Savior. He has rescued you from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Even though the devil will attack you, you are a conqueror through Christ, and because of the baby lying in the manger, your eternal future is secure.

Prayer of the Day – O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# Acolytes, Screen Techs, Greeters, Ushers, Altar Guild, Sextons

December	3rd/4th	10th/11th	17th/18th	24th/25th
<b>Acolytes</b>				
7:30PM	Zac & Jeff Yorke	Conner MacKay		
8:30AM	Joshua & Justin Allen	Danielle & Matt Ayotte	Ethan & Emma Hoard	Kirsten Skouson
11AM	Brandon & Mark Rude	Alden & Jay Rodammer	Christian Kennedy	Paige & Matt Ayotte
<b>Screen Tech</b>				
7:30PM	Christian Kennedy	Zac Yorke	Jasmine Brandle	No
8:30AM	Eddie Meeks	Singers	Joshua Allen	Screen
11AM	Isabel Ketels	Brandon Rude	Ayottes	
<b>Greeters</b>				
7:30PM	Shelli Lugg	Betty Bleuer	Laura Sherman	
8:30AM	Shirley Petzold	Ken & Kathy Ill	Natalie Smith	
11AM	Les & Diane Maxson, Ron & Olga Nims	LuAnn Licavoli, Wayne & Luanne Jaruzel	Rosie Horning, Dale & Pam Hanlin, Keith & Heidi Woolwine	Jason & Heather Jones
Subs	Denise Miller	Sherry Sebert		

## Ushers

### **8:30AM Service**

Captain– Dwight Keinath  
 Assistant Michael Albert  
 Ken Auernhammer  
 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

## Altar Guild Communion Set-Up

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

## Church Sextons

Mathew & Angela Ayotte  
 Armand & Faye Carmona  
 Ed & Marcia Keinath  
 Ted & Katrina Wager  
 Rod & Nancy Wilson



*Thank you to our many volunteers who give their time to help with the worship services. May your servant heart continue to bless those you serve at St. Paul. You are appreciated!*

# Birthday Celebrations

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

*Happy  
Birthday!*



## Music at St. Paul



One has to get up pretty early in the morning to catch these youthful bell ringers practicing. 7AM on Tuesdays, to be exact, but it's worth it. If your child is interested in joining the Jr. Handbells, call Connie Rodammer.



The Handbell Choir practices on Monday evenings at 7PM. Call Julie Keinath if you'd like to be a part of this group!



The Brass Group blesses us with special music for many of the holidays and special services. They are always looking for some new members. If you've ever thought about pulling your instrument back out, why not now?



Praise Team practices are Thursdays at 6:15PM. Singers and instrumentalists always welcome to join!

Make a *Joyful* noise unto the *Lord*  
Psalms 98:4



The Church Choir, under the direction of Teresa Walter, uses their voices to sing praises to God! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:53PM. All are welcome!



# More Music at St. Paul



The school bands are directed by Mr. Brad Schmalztz. Pictured top to bottom are the 5th Grade, 6th & 7th Grade, and 8th Grade Bands.



Top: Cherub Choir - Director: Mrs. Dianne Weber  
 Middle: Cantate Choir - Director: Mrs. Tina Petzold  
 Bottom: Free Spirit Choir - Director: Mrs. Teresa Walter



# St. Paul Lutheran School

## December 2016



*"Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*  
**Philippians 4:6-7**

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. 2	Wear your school theme shirt	
Dec. 4	St. Paul Christmas Concert	4:00 p.m.
	Scholastic 2 for 1 Book Fair after the concert	
Dec. 7	Advent Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. & Scholastic 2 for 1 Book Fair	
Dec. 9	P.T.L. Polar Express Night from 6-9 p.m.	
Dec. 14	Advent Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 21	Chapel service, last day of class before Christmas break with the first Children's Christmas Service at 6:00 p.m.	
Dec. 22- Jan. 2	Christmas Vacation	
Dec. 24	Children's Christmas Service	6:00 p.m.



**Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Was Born**

Practices for the Children's Christmas programs start on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 money to help defray the costs, please take your donation to the school office no later than Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. 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. 4	Church Christmas Concert: all school choirs, Junior Bells, Band,	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	Cantate Choir	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	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. 2	at St. Paul, Flint	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 6	at Christ the King, Sebawaing	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	with St. Michaels, Richville	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	with St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	6:00 p.m.



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

# December 2016

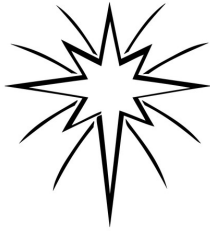
St. Paul Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> 6:15PM Praise Team 7:15PM Evangelism	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>7:30PM Worship</b>
<b>4 8:30AM Worship +C</b> <i>Men's Choir</i> 9:45AM Bible Study Sunday School BOGO Book Fair <b>11AM Worship</b> <i>Men's Choir</i> 4PM Choir Concert Fiesta Dinner Following	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6PM Painting 6:15PM Get Fit 7PM Stewardship 7:30PM AA	<b>7</b> 9AM Daily Lect. <b>4 &amp; 7PM Worship</b> 6:30 Social Concerns 8PM Council	<b>8</b> 6:15PM Praise Team 6:30PM Board of Ed.	<b>9</b> 7AM Breakfast Club at MHS 1:30PM Pack Lunches for Rescue Mission	<b>10</b> 7:30AM Men's Bible Study 9AM-7PM Scrapbooking 10AM Saginaw Rescue Mission <b>7:30PM Worship +C</b>
<b>11 8:30AM Worship</b> <i>Church Choir</i> 9:45AM Bible Study <b>11AM Worship +C</b> <i>Church Choir</i> 1:30PM Voters Mtg. Trustees to follow 6-8PM High School Youth	<b>12</b> 7PM Stephen Ministry	<b>13</b> 6PM Painting 6:15PM Get Fit 7:30PM -Heroes -AA	<b>14</b> 9AM Daily Lect. <b>4 &amp; 7PM Worship</b>	<b>15</b> 6:15PM Praise Team	<b>16</b> <i>Messenger            Deadline</i>	<b>17</b> 10:30AM Brass Practice <b>7:30PM Worship</b>
<b>18</b> <b>8:30AM Worship +C</b> <i>Handbells</i> 9:45AM Bible Study Sunday School <b>11AM Worship</b> <i>Contemporary</i> 4PM Giving Tree Gift Wrapping 6-8PM Jr. & Sr. Youth	<b>19</b> 7PM Salary & Personnel	<b>20</b> 1-7PM Blood Drive 6PM Painting 6:15PM Get Fit 7:30PM AA	<b>21</b> 9AM Daily Lect. <b>6PM            Children's Service</b>	<b>22</b> <i>No School</i> 6:15PM Praise Team	<b>23</b> <i>No School</i>	<b>24</b> <b>6PM Children's            Service</b> <b>9PM Candlelight            Service</b>
<b>25 Christmas Day</b> <b>8:30AM Worship +C</b> <b>11AM Worship +C</b> <i>Contemporary</i>	<b>26</b> 7PM Stephen Ministry	<b>27</b> 6PM Painting 6:15PM Get Fit 7:30PM AA	<b>28</b> 9AM Daily Lect. 7:30PM Elders	<b>29</b> 6:15PM Praise Team	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Year's            Eve</b> <b>7:30PM Worship</b>



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

Return Service Requested



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# Monthly Messenger

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School  
December 2016

*For unto us a child is born,  
**Unto us a son is given:**  
And the government shall be upon His shoulder:  
*And His name shall be called**

**\*Wonderful,\***  
COUNSELLOR,  
The Mighty God,  
*The everlasting Father,*  
The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6