



# Monthly Messenger

## St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

### December 2020

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

#### A Message from Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
The situation is very similar.

When Jesus came into the world, He came as a vulnerable human baby. There was political unrest (between the Jewish people and the governing power of the Roman empire) and racial issues throughout the land. Joseph and Mary were probably struggling financially. Because Mary's prenatal care was far less than what we can provide today, Jesus was at risk of dying from the moment He was conceived. Now, babies can be aborted at any moment. Travel was not easy and the journey they took to Bethlehem would have been discouraged considering her condition, but it was necessary by law. Now, we are limited in travel due to potential spread of COVID. His parents wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in appropriate housing. Holding Him in their arms was the only other protection they could provide Him. Even today, there are homeless and unsafe housing arrangements.

The Son of God came to experience our vulnerability, because He loves us. His life was always in danger, but the ultimate cause of His death was intentionally embraced. He was given the name Jesus because He came to save His people from their sins (Mt. 1:21). He was not protected from the suffering and death on the cross. His life was intended to end in this horrible death. The world needed a Savior then, and we still need a Savior now. Thankfully, we have this confident hope and eternal joy, despite the uncertain world we live in. No matter what is coming in the future, we hold on to the promises of our God. "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So, we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Heb. 13:5-6). His love for

us is the same yesterday, today and forever (because He remains the same).

Did you notice before Thanksgiving how people started to direct their attention toward Christmas to take their mind off of the darkness of our present world? Here is my word of encouragement. Consider how Jesus remains the greatest present (as a gift and in terms of time). The situation has always been very similar.

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

Pastor Bruner

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:10-11

#### **St. Paul Lutheran Church & School**

4941 W. Center St.  
Millington, MI 48746  
989-871-4581  
www.stpaul-millington.org  
Email:  
church.office@spmill.org

Rev. James Bruner  
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Tim Martinal  
Associate Pastor

**Worship Services**  
Sunday 10 A.M.  
(Also live-streamed)  
Saturday 7 P.M.

**Bible Study**  
Sunday 9 A.M.

+++++

**In this Issue:**  
Spiritual News  
Calendar of Events  
Lectionary  
Memorials  
School News  
Area News  
Schedules  
Birthdays  
Monthly Calendar

#### Special Services

*We may have different times and ways of celebrating Christmas this year, but the meaning of Christmas is the same- Jesus! (Matthew 1:21)*

#### Advent Services

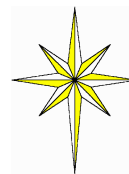
Wed., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:30PM

#### Christmas Eve Candlelight

6PM and 9PM

#### Christmas Day

10AM with Communion



Sat., Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> - No Service

Sun., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> - 10AM with Communion



*The December Messenger is sponsored in memory of our loved ones who have gone to heaven before us, from the Rodammer Family.*

# St. Paul Worship News / Scripture / Memorials

## Worship Service Times

Saturdays at 7PM

Sundays at 10AM (Also live streamed)

### Traditional service with Communion

2nd and 4th weekends

### Contemporary service

1st, 3rd, and 5th weekends

If you would like to be added to our email list, please go to [www.stpaul-millington.org/subscribe.html](http://www.stpaul-millington.org/subscribe.html).

## Contact Information / Office Hours

If you need to speak to one of the pastors or someone in the church office, call 871-4581 #3 and leave a message or email [church.office@spmill.org](mailto:church.office@spmill.org). We will reply as soon as we can. In case of emergency, call one of the pastors on their cell phone - Pastor Bruner 989-233-1994 or Pastor Martinal 402-672-9817.

### Church Office Hours

Monday through Wednesday from 11-3PM  
or by appointment.

## Staff Gift

Every year our staff goes above and beyond daily for the work of the kingdom here at St. Paul and beyond. As we all know, this year has been especially challenging for everyone. If you care to show your appreciation, please consider giving to the "Staff Christmas Gift." Cash donations can be placed in an envelope marked "Staff Gift" and put in the offering box, mailed to the office, or brought to the office before **Sun., Dec. 13th**. No checks please. Remember, this is not a tax deductible gift and will not be recorded on your statement. Thank you for remembering our staff this Christmas.

## Memorials & Special Gifts

In Memory of Art Weber	
General Fund	\$20.00
Building Fund	\$30.00
In Memory of Margaret Shaver	
Memorials Undesignated	\$20.00
In Honor of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Darryl & Edna McLaren	
Building Fund	\$100.00
In Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ed & Marcia Keinath	
Building Fund	\$50.00
In Memory of Joyce Koch	
General Fund	\$558.00

## Voters' Meeting

The next Voters' Meeting will be on  
Sun., Dec. 13th at 1:30PM.

**This meeting will be online via Zoom -  
it will not be in person.**

If you are not already signed up for our emails and would like to attend the online meeting, please go to [stpaul-millington.org/subscribe](http://stpaul-millington.org/subscribe) or call the church office to be added.

## Scripture Readings

### Dec. 6th

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

*2 Peter 3:8-14*

*Mark 1:1-8*

### Dec. 13th

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

*1 Thess. 5:16-24*

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

### Dec. 20th

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

*Romans 16:25-27*

*Luke 1:26-38*

### Dec. 27th

*Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

*Galatians 4:4-7*

*Luke 2:22-40*

*Merry  
Christmas*



## Lutheran Ministries "Worship for Shut-Ins"

Sundays at 11:30AM on  
TCT Net. (DirecTV 377)

Sundays at 11:30AM on WAQP 49

Dec. 6th - "Judgment Day Truths" -  
2 Pet. 3:3, 5, 7-13

Dec. 13th - "Giving Up for Advent" - John 1:23

Dec. 20th - "The Usual Christmas?" - Luke 2:11

Dec. 27th - "We Are Family" - Gal. 4:4-7



Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Was Born

# St. Paul Lutheran School

## December 2020

*St. Paul Lutheran School is committed to engaging students with a comprehensive education grounded in God's Word to prepare them for a life in Christ.*

As we begin December, no matter what the world around us looks like, 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	Picture Retake day	
Dec. 2	Advent Services	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	Advent Services	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Advent Services	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Last day of classes	
Dec. 19- Jan. 4	Christmas Vacation	



Due to the extraordinary times we are living in, we will not be doing our traditional Children's CHRISTmas services. However, the teachers and students have been working hard on video presentation to still tell others about how some of the characters and animals of the Luke 2 CHRISTmas story were "SENT TO SERVE". These short vignettes will be presented during the church service, one each weekend, each Wednesday during Advent and on January 3, 2021 as we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord.

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

### **Spartan Sports**

Our basketball season for boys and girls has been postponed due to COVID-19 protocols. When things change we will let you know.


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



*Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

*I Corinthians*

# Daily Lectionary / Finance Report / Orphan Grain Train

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6</b> Is. 14:1-12 2 Pt. 3:1-18	<b>7</b> Is. 24:1-13 1 John 1:1-2:14	<b>8</b> Is. 24:14-25:12 1 John 2:15-29	<b>9</b> Is. 26:1-19 1 John 3:1-24	<b>10</b> Is. 26:20-27:13 1 John 4:1-21	<b>11</b> Is. 28:14-29 1 John 5:1-21	<b>12</b> Is. 29:1-14 Jude 1-25
<b>13</b> Is. 29:15-30:14 Rev. 1:1-20	<b>14</b> Is. 30:15-26 Rev. 2:1-29	<b>15</b> Is. 30:27-31:9 Rev. 3:1-22	<b>16</b> Is. 32:1-20 Rev. 4:1-11	<b>17</b> Is. 33:1-24 Rev. 5:1-14	<b>18</b> Is. 34:1-2; 34:8-35:10 Rev. 6:1-17	<b>19</b> Is. 40:1-17 Rev. 7:1-17
<b>20</b> Is. 40:18-41:10 Rev. 8:1-13	<b>21</b> Is. 42:1-25 Rev. 9:1-12	<b>22</b> Is. 43:1-24 Rev. 9:13-10:11	<b>23</b> Is. 43:25-44:20 Rev. 11:1-19	<b>24</b> Is. 44:21-45:13, 20-25 Rev. 12:1-17	<b>25</b> Is. 49:1-18 Matt. 1:1-17	<b>26</b> Is. 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8; 51:12-16 Matt. 1:18-25
<b>27</b> Is. 51:17-52:12 Matt. 2:1-12	<b>28</b> Is. 52:13-54:10 Matt. 2:13-23	<b>29</b> Is. 55:1-13 Luke 1:1-25	<b>30</b> Is. 58:1-59:3; 58:14-21 Luke 1:26-38	<b>31</b> Is. 60:1-22 Luke 1:39-56		

## CEF Building Fund Summary

Mortgage Balance as of 10/31/2020: \$384,347.45  
 Debt free date if nothing changes: March 2024  
 2020 Mortgage Payment \$10,000.00  
     \* Principal \$8,712.05  
     \* Interest \$1,287.95  
 Oct. offerings received to pay mortgage: \$11,876.31  
 Amount Added to contingency fund in Oct.: \$1,178.26  
 Balance as of 10/31/20 in contingency fund: \$75,338.29

## Oct. 2020 Income & Expense Summary

General Fund Income:	\$63,981.70
General Fund Expenses:	\$84,657.22
<b>Oct. Deficit</b>	<b>(\$20,675.52)</b>
<b>Overall Deficit to date</b>	<b>(\$40,661.40)</b>
<b>Gen Fund Checking Balance (Deficit):</b>	<b>(\$24,118.07)</b>

## Messenger Sponsors

If you would like to sponsor a Messenger for 2021, please call the church office.

## Altar Flowers

The 2021 Flower Chart is hanging in the hallway between the church mailboxes. Please add your name, phone number, and center or side vases. You are responsible for calling the florist of your choice and (pending we have bulletins) letting the church office know what you would like the bulletin to say. Thank you.

## Annual Reports

All boards, committees, groups, etc. please submit your annual report by Fri., Jan. 8th. Email to church.office@spsmill.org or bring to the church office. If questions, call the office 871-4581.

## Poinsettias

If you want to order a poinsettia for the altar for Christmas, sign up on the glass case in the narthex or call the Church Office by Sun., Dec. 13th. Plants are \$15 each and can be picked up after the Christmas Day service. Please make checks payable to Pam Hanlin.

## Offering Envelopes

2021 Church Offering Envelopes are in the narthex. Please take your box and any others you may be able to deliver. Remember - do not use until January.

## Advent Devotions

Large and regular print Devotion Booklets are on the table in the narthex or in the cooler on the church porch. This year's devotions are from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

## Special Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who sends me cards and special thanks to the Wagers for the yellow rose. -Eunice Peche





## December Birthdays

Andrew Weber	1	Dana Earl	11	Steven, Holmes, Sr.	20
Taylor Wirsing	1	Terry Reinbold	11	Allen Marks	20
Kamden Keinath	1	Jason Stewart	11	Chester Petzold	20
Deborah ILL	1	Judy Grulke	11	Norma Taylor	20
Riley Pattinson	1	Logan Wirsing	12	Alexis Hudie	20
Judith Snover	1	Linda Windt	12	Holli Johnson	20
Delores Reinert	2	Cameron Loomis	12	Seth Sundberg	20
Tyler Rude	2	Michelle Stewart	12	Julie Rude	21
Logan Myers	2	Fran Carnet	13	Megan Curtis	21
Jodi Torrey	2	Gerry Smith II	13	Trenton Weber	21
Kara Polk	3	Ashtyn Stewart	13	Nicholas Schultz	21
Jeremy Corrigan	3	Lisa Bach	14	Jackie Petzold	22
Brooklyn Ewing	3	Dennis Schmidt	14	Collin Strouth	22
Dawn Knoll	3	Ireva Wolverton	14	Larry Kammer	23
Kara Stevens	3	Alison Reinig	14	Alex Kern	23
Melissa Sandusky	3	Amy Casto	14	Sheila Peche	23
Sarah Waterman	3	John Allard	15	Sarah Campbell	23
Daniel Petzold	4	Karen Bruner	15	Marlene Keipinger	23
Lori Kowitz	4	Melissa Hager	15	Rhonda Nielson	23
Holly Leach	4	Cherri Herrick	15	Arnie Petzold	24
Brad Sayles	4	Doris Meier	15	Gary Wagner	24
William Woodward	5	Harvey Schiefer	15	Christine Jaruzel	24
Eric Galant	5	Lincoln Keinath	15	Finnlee Lowrey	24
Daniel Karcher	5	Dylan Horning	15	Linda Schmidt	25
Scott Jensen	6	Jonah Horning	15	Jena Giardini	25
Kari Johnston	6	Nicolas Horning	15	Kassandra Mills	26
Connie Keinath	7	Cheryl Anderson	16	Anna Reinig	26
Faydra Myers	7	Denise Miller	16	Gerald Higgins	26
Rylyn Roth	7	Reagan Hoard	16	Lucas Hoard	26
Elizabeth Selich	7	Lexie Swink	16	Larry Jensen	26
Candice Tatro	7	Andy Rosebush	16	Melody Payea	27
Molly Wolfington	7	Susan Washburn	16	Marie Ross	27
Carol Weber	8	Sarah Pobocik	17	Tamera Dreher	27
Mary White	8	Carter Stevens	17	Robert Fall	28
Grace Adamic	9	Shelby Jesberg	18	Lynnette Keinath	28
Matthew Allen	9	Adam Polk	18	Aiden Koch	28
Kaitlyn Burton	9	Carol Burchett	18	Niola Leach	28
Danielle DeOrnellas	9	Karri Smith	18	Matt Ayotte	29
Lillian Sergent	9	Brody Willson	18	Marvin Schiefer	29
David Janowski	9	Aidan Bach	19	Floyd, III Harsen	29
Joshua Keinath	9	Sandra Brow	19	Cameron Henderson	29
Joshua Petzold	9	Taren Ewing	19	Alexis Sutton	29
Michelle Sayles	9	Sandy Shamel	19	Jeff Staple	30
Marilyn Daenzer	10	Marie Trinklein	19	Donna Torrey	30
Elizabeth Goodhue	10	Ricks Anderson	19	Shannon Keinath	30
Violet Myers	10	Nicholas Borcharding	19	Teresa Walter	31
Chy Rueckert	10	Dane Coleman	19	Danny Brandle	31
Geri Blue	11	Karrie Colman	19	Brody Germain	31
Lorine Edler	11	Paul Rogers	19	Dean Mason	31
Jeffrey Johnston	11	Taren Webster	19	John Osborn, Jr	31
Janette Keinath	11				



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

# December



---

## Monthly Messenger

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School  
December 2020

✦ O ✦  
Come  
Let Us  
**ADORE**  
**HIM!**