



# Monthly Messenger

## St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

December 2021

*"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,

When the lights go out, is it the end or the beginning? It depends.

It could be the end of the day and you are going to bed. However, what if you are in an auditorium or theater? When the lights go out, it is the beginning of the show.

It was a winter night and most of the lights had been extinguished. Darkness had grown across the world stage. The show was about to begin. The darkness was not just from the absence of light. The world was darkened by sin. Into this dark world, a baby was born and he was given the name Jesus. *"The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it"* (John 1:5). Jesus came as The Light of the world. *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (John 8:12b).

As we approach the end of this year, celebrate the birth of our Savior. He came to bring eternal light and life into our dark world. What a blessing it is to receive this wonderful gift from God. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus came to bring the end and to begin something new. His obedient life and sacrifice in our place accomplished the end. There is no need for any more sacrifices for sin. Now there is a new freedom for those who completely rely on Jesus. That is what receiving grace and sharing grace is all about.

Lights out...there are other things that are ending and reveal a new beginning. The year 2021 is ending but we will enter a new

year, in which we celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We can give thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon St. Paul Lutheran in the past, but... Ministry is not over! We have much to do for our Lord, as we live out our mission statement of sharing His Word with others. In 2022, we can also celebrate the end of our mortgage payments, BUT I ask everyone who has been giving to the Building Fund to continue giving. For others, I ask you to give for the first time or in an increased manner. This is a great opportunity for all our gifts to "build up" people. First, we can provide more for the servants (faculty and staff) who are in need of being built up financially. Second, we can build up the various ministries to the members and to others. This is not the end. It is a new beginning. We plan on celebrating many more anniversaries.

God the Father gave you the gift of His Son. Think of this new year (and beyond) as a new occasion to give back to God. He already has plans to bless others with your gifts to Him. That is the generous heart our God has. That will never end. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"* (Heb. 13:8). *"The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made"* (Psalm 145:7). Read all of Psalm 145 and notice how God's people do not stop sharing the Word (the message) of God's great love. They continue. *"My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever"* (Ps. 145:21).

There are different ways to read "lights out." I hope you recognize it as the beginning and not the end.

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

Rev. James Bruner

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

4941 W. Center St.  
Millington, MI 48746  
989-871-4581

stpaul-millington.org

Email:

church.office@spmill.org

School Website:

school.stpaul-millington.org

Rev. James Bruner  
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Tim Martinal  
Associate Pastor

#### **Worship Services**

Saturday 7 P.M.

Sunday 8:30 & 11AM

(11AM Also live-streamed)

#### **Faith on Fire**

Bible Study & Sunday School

Sunday 9:45 A.M.

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#### **In this Issue:**

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*The December Messenger is sponsored in honor of Glenn & Gale Brown on their wedding anniversary, in memory of Ron Edler's 85th birthday and in honor of Lorine Edler's 84th birthday. Merry Christmas to all!*

# Worship News / Bible Studies

## Worship Service Times

Saturday at 7PM

Sunday at 8:30 & 11AM

Bible Study & Sunday School at 9:45AM

\*Contemporary 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 11AM

\*Communion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 8:30AM  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11AM &  
Sat. eve of that weekend

To be added to our email list for the latest announcements, please go to [www.stpaul-millington.org/subscribe.html](http://www.stpaul-millington.org/subscribe.html).

## Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday from 10AM-3PM

## Contact Information

If you need to speak to one of the pastors or someone in the church office outside of office hours 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 Pastor Bruner 989-233-1994 or Pastor Martinal 402-672-9817.

## Scripture Readings

### Dec. 5th

*Malachi 3:1-7b*

*Phil. 1:2-11*

*Luke 3:1-14*

### Dec. 12th

*Zeph. 3:14-20*

*Phil. 4:4-7*

*Luke 7:18-28*

### Dec. 19th

*Micah 5:2-5a*

*Heb. 10:5-10*

*Luke 1:39-45*

### Dec. 26th

*Ex. 13:1-3a, 11-15*

*Col. 3:12-17*

*Luke 2:22-40*

## Sunday Bible Studies

"Faith on Fire" Sunday between services.



**Preschool–Grade 2 Faith Spark** - [Childcare Room](#)

**Grades 3-5 Faith Flare** - [Projects Room](#)

**Grades 6-8 Faith Ignite** - [Computer Room](#)

**Grades 9-12 Faith Flame** - [Youth Room](#)

**Adults Faith Blaze** - [Parish Hall](#)

Adult supervised toddler care is in the nursery room for children too young to attend the early childhood program. Materials include opportunities for parents to extend the lesson into the week with their children. Strengthen the faith of your entire family by attending this program.



**Coffee Hour** between services in the Parish Hall. Grab a cup of coffee and a snack before heading to "Faith on Fire." **In order to keep coffee hour going, we need volunteers** to sign up to host a date or two. Hosting involves bringing in a few treats, making the coffee, and cleaning up. Sign up sheet will be in the Parish Hall.

## Bible Studies

**Men's Bible Study** - Join us on Sat., Dec. 4th at 8AM in the Library.

**Women's Bible Study** - Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm in the Library. Are you chosen? What are you chosen for? Come join us as we walk through the life of Jesus with the program "The Chosen".

**Couples Bible Study** - Have a better Christ-filled marriage! We dare you!! The "Love Dare" is a journey every couple needs to take. Whether your marriage is hanging on by a string or healthy and strong, come, find the We will meet every 3rd Sunday of the month from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

**In-Home Small Group Bible Study** sign up sheet is on the glass case in the narthex. Plan to become part of a group to study God's Word with your fellow Christians. **If you are interested in being an In-Home Bible Study Leader**, please call Steve Kern at 989-448-1069.



## Lutheran Ministries "Worship for Shut-Ins"

Sundays at 11:30AM on  
TCT Net. (DirecTV 377)  
Sundays at 11:30AM on WAQP 49

## The Lutheran Hour Radio

1400 AM Sunday at 8:30AM



# Upcoming Events / Meetings

## Upcoming Events

### Quilting

**No Quilting** in December.  
We will resume on Tues., Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Zumba

Zumba will be **moved to Thursdays** at 6PM for the month of December and Saturdays at 10AM in the Activity Center. \$1 at the door!

### Scrapbooking

Sat., Dec. 4th from 9AM-7PM in the Parish Hall.  
\$6.00 per person. Bring a dish to pass.  
Call the school office to RSVP.

## Toys and Joys



December 11th from 10AM-2PM.

Want to avoid high prices for Christmas Shopping? Greatly reduced priced gifts for ages toddler and up have been donated by people who simply want to share their love of the Christ Child! First come, first served. If you are interested in donating new toys for this event, please bring items to the church or school office. We are also in need of helpers the day of the event. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you wish to help. If questions, please call Patti at 402-672-8673.

## PTL Movie Night

Fri., Dec. 17th at 6PM in the Parish Hall  
Join us for an evening of fun!

## Meetings

### Council

Wed., Jan. 5th at 6:30PM in the Library

### Voters' Assembly

Sun., Dec. 12th at 1:30PM in the church

### Stephen Ministry

Mon., Dec. 13th at 7PM in the Gathering Room

### Dorcas

Tues., Dec. 21st at 6PM in the Parish Hall -  
New members are always welcome!

### Elders

Wed., Dec. 22nd at 6:30PM in the Gathering Room



## Special Services

**Christmas Concert** Sun., Dec. 5th - 4PM

**Advent Services** at 6:30PM

Dec. 1st - Pre-School/Kindergarten

Dec. 8th - 1st-3rd Grade

Dec. 15th - 4th-8th Grade

Dec. 22nd - Christmas Sing-Along

**Christmas Eve Candlelight** - 6PM & 9PM

**Christmas Day** - 10AM +C

**No Service** on Sun., Dec. 26th

**New Year's Eve** - 6PM

**No Service** on Sat., Jan. 1st

Sun., Jan. 2nd - 8:30AM Traditional +C  
11AM Contemporary

## Staff Christmas Gift

Every year our St. Paul staff goes above and beyond daily for the work of the kingdom. 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 church office before Sun., Dec. 12th. 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.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Adult Volleyball

Friday nights from 6-8PM beginning Jan. 7th. Anyone 16 and older is welcome!

### Epiphany Tree & Mortgage Burning

Sat., Jan. 8th at 4PM in the church yard. Bring your Christmas tree to burn, your favorite Christmas cookies and celebrate being debt free! Hot chocolate will be provided.

## 125th Anniversary



**St. Paul's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** is just around the corner. Our kick-off to a yearlong celebration will begin on Sun., Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> with a potluck after the services. Tim Bickel will be our guest preacher. More details to follow. We are looking forward to celebrating all year. If you would like help out with any of the events, please call the church office.

# St. Paul Lutheran School

## December 2021

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, let's prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of our Lord; not only His first coming as a baby but also for His second coming when He shall reign forever!

### Important December Dates

Dec. 1	Preschool/Kindergarten Advent Services	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	Picture Retake Day	
Dec. 3	½ day of classes with bussing, dismissal at 11:15 a.m.	
Dec. 5	Church Christmas Concert	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 6	NO SCHOOL	
Dec. 8	1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> grades Advent Service	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 15	4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades Advent Service	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Last Day of classes	
Dec. 18- Jan. 2	Christmas Vacation	



This year, groups of classes will be presenting CHRISTmas programs for the Advent services at 6:30 p.m. throughout the month of December...Preschool/Kindergarten Dec.1; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades Dec.8; and 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades on Dec.15. Please come and worship with us at all these services and prepare your hearts for CHRISTmas!

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.



### School Musical Opportunities



Dec. 1	Preschool & Kindergarten Advent Service	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	Church Christmas Concert: all school choirs, Jubilate Bells, Band	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 8	1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> grades Advent Service	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 15	4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades Advent Service	6:30 p.m.



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



### Girl's & Boy's B-team Basketball ( girls play first followed by the boys)



Dec. 3	at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 4	at Peace, Saginaw Holiday Tournament	TBA
Dec. 9	at Christ the King, Sebawaing	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	with St. Paul, Flint	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at St. Michael's, Richville	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	at Immanuel/Trinity, Reese	6:00 p.m.



*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. 1 Corinthians 10:31*

# Daily Lectionary / Scripture / Special Services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December Daily Lectionary						
<b>5</b> Is. 11:1-12:6 2 Pt. 2:1-22	<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, 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 Luke 1:26-38	<b>31</b> Is. 60:1-22 Luke 1:39-56	<i>Joy</i>

## Opportunities to Serve, Volunteer, and Donate

**Church Sexton trainees needed.** We are looking for a couple to help with weekend services, weddings and funerals. Our Sextons work on a rotating basis. Contact the church office if interested or if questions.

We are also looking for more help on our **Altar Guild**. There are many behind the scene jobs the Altar Guild is in charge of, so if you can help in any way, please call the church office. Needing the most help right now is set up for 8:30AM communion and linens & vestments.

**Volunteers are needed at the school!** We have many different ways for you to serve. Call the school office if you can help in any way.

If you wish to contribute to the **anniversary fund**, please put your donation in an envelope marked "125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" and place in the box in the narthex or bring to the church office.

Anyone wishing to **help prepare sack lunches** to take to the mission are asked to come to the St. Paul kitchen on **Fri., Dec. 10th** at 1:30PM. Monetary donations are welcomed and needed for the lunches. Contact Paul Schoenknecht 871-2280 if you are willing to help.

Do you know anyone in the Millington area that has **emergency needs?** The **Millington Ministerial Alliance** can provide some help. This alliance of the local churches has a fund that is used for helping in times of need. Requests for assistance can be made at the Millington Community Center on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm or they can call 871-7377, leave a message and the MMA will get back to them.

One of our students, Emma Burns, is **collecting donations** of small Christmas presents (unwrapped), personal hygiene items, socks & underwear (new), and clothes (new or slightly used) for the Saginaw Rescue Mission. Please bring to the school office thru Dec. 10th.

It is time for the **Giving Tree** again. We are fortunate to be able to help families in our congregation and community. We have stars on the tree for gifts and necessities for these families. Please feel free to take as many as you feel comfortable. We ask that gifts purchased stay around \$30 to maintain consistency. Please return gifts and necessities to the bench across from the pastors' offices unwrapped with the stars attached by Sun., Dec. 12th. Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity during this season. If you have any questions, please reach out to Melissa Wagner 989-412-3365.



# Financial Summary / Memorials / Misc.

## CEF Building Fund Summary

Mortgage Balance as of 10/31/2021:	\$32,980.09
Debt free date if nothing changes: November 2021	
Balance as of 10/31/21 in contingency fund:	\$26,276.86
October offerings received to pay mortgage sent in Nov.	\$14,424.29
October 2021 Mortgage Payment:P-\$9,828.72;I-\$171.28	\$10,000.00

## October 2021 Income & Expense Summary

October General Fund Income:	\$97,472.51
October General Fund Expenses:	\$85,037.15
October surplus (deficit)	\$ 12,435.36
Overall surplus (deficit) to date	\$(24,061.18)
Gen Fund Checking Balance	\$141,111.23

## RESTRICTED Cash Accounts Summary\*\*

School Designated Accounts balance:	\$91,626.00
Church Designated Accounts balance:	\$71,383.64
All Memorials balance:	\$18,691.27
<b>** This money is RESTRICTED***</b>	<b>\$181,700.91</b>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contributions to Grantparent Fund October	\$463.98
VLHS door offering 10-31-21	\$486.00
Pastor Homann family door offering	\$1,561.00

## Memorials & Special Gifts

In Memory of Vic Schwab Jr.	
Building Fund	\$800.00
School Fund	\$10.00
In Memory of Howard Hergenreder	
General Fund	\$780.00
School Fund	\$25.00
Memorials Undesignated	\$70.00
In Memory of Wallace Schluckebier	
General Fund	\$20.00
In Memory of Keith Haubenstricker	
General Fund	\$55.00
In Honor of Howard Maurer's 90th Birthday	
General Fund	\$50.00



## "Here We Stand" Door Offering

We have been blessed to have members of St. Paul become teachers and pastors. The MI District LCMS is able to support future church workers through the "Here We Stand" campaign. Along with Professional Church Worker Scholarships, gifts will also help in the areas of Innovative Missional Ministry, Michigan District Endowment, and International Ministry. Over \$7.22 million in gifts, pledges, and congregational goals have been donated to date. Our next quarterly **door offering** to help support this ministry will be the weekends of Dec. 4/5 and 11/12. You can also give to this fund at any time by placing in an envelope marked "Here We Stand."

## Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a **Poinsettia for the altar**, sign up on the glass case in the narthex by Sun., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Plants are \$18.00 each and can be picked up after the service on Christmas Day. Please make checks payable to Pam Hanlin.

## Altar Flowers

The 2022 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.

## Messenger Sponsors

If you would like to sponsor a Messenger for 2022, please call the church office. The cost is \$75.00 per month.

## Advent Devotion Booklets

Large or small print Advent Books are in the narthex.

## Shop and Earn Money!

We are now on Amazon Smile. If you already shop on Amazon, you are just one step away to earning money for St. Paul. Just sign up at smile.amazon.com, add St. Paul as your charity, and start shopping! It's that easy! We earn a percentage on every order.

## Annual Reports

All boards, committees, groups, etc. - please submit your annual report by Mon., Jan. 10th. Email to church.office@spsmill.org or bring to the church office. The annual report is our way of recording our history through the years. If questions, call 871-4581 #3.

## Part-time Organist

St. Paul is looking for a part-time organist one weekend per month, number of services may vary, Saturday night at 7PM and Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11AM. Practice time will be available. The pay is on a per service basis. Hymns from the Lutheran Service Book and the liturgy will utilize the various Divine Service settings, as well as created printed services. For questions please contact the church office 989-871-4581 #3 or church.office@spsmill.org.

## Did you Know???

The St. Paul **Activity Center is available to rent** for events.

**Member Fee:** \$150 +\$150 for floor protection set-up. Floor fee waived if member elects to setup/takedown themselves.

**Community Fee:** \$400 (includes floor fee)

# IRA Distribution / Thrivent Info / Thanks

## IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, IRS rules require you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your individual retirement accounts (IRAs). If this applies to you, you may be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your RMDs. An IRA qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a way you can help continue our work and benefit this year.

Benefits of an IRA QCD

- Avoid taxes on transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to St. Paul
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for 2021.
- Reduce your taxable income.
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.
- Help further the work and mission of St. Paul.

How an IRA QCD Works

- Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to St. Paul.
- Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to St. Paul to help continue our important work.
- Please note that IRA QCD gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.
- Please contact your tax professional or financial advisor for more information.

## Many, Many Thanks!

We wish to send a **special thank you** to the following members for their dedicated work in keeping our grounds looking nice this summer. Some mowed, some did landscaping, some did planting and weeding and many other items to help beautify our grounds. It takes many hands and many hours of dedication to make this happen, so thanks to the following: Carol Weber, Tom Schiefer, Connie Rodammer, Sterling Force, Wayne Jaruzel, Jim Weber, Jan Snyder, Vanessa Selich, Emma Hoard, Brandon Rude, Steve Schmadt, The Yorke Family, Shirley Snyder, Melody Payea, Tim and Heather Sergent, Rick Sherman, Jackie Sabgash, Janet Love, Rachel Higgins, Russell Sherman, Phil Erlenbeck, Andrew Hoard

Compassionate ministry in the name of Christ... We are one in the body of Christ. "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it" (1 Cor. 12:26). Through a door offering, we were able to send a gift of love of \$1561.00 to Mrs. Emily Homann and her young family after the untimely death of her husband, Rev. Brian Homann. We hurt with those who grieve, but we also rejoice in the example of faith Rev. Homann lived in the days God allowed him. Emily sent a **thank you** note which included these words: "Thank you for the gift. It is very much appreciated."

To Our Spiritual Family at St. Paul,  
Fred and I, Sheri, **appreciate** the many heartfelt prayers for Fred's recovery. Your faithful, steadfast prayers over the last year and a half meant so much to us. The Lord has answered our prayers, favorably. We give thanks and praise to Our Father and the Lord's faithfulness and to the prayers of our church family. -Fred & Sheri Erlenbeck

## What is Thrivent Choice?

The Thrivent Choice program is a charitable grant program that encourages members of Thrivent to recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding. Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> and Thrivent Choice Voting<sup>®</sup> Events result in the distribution of several million dollars of grant funds to causes that members like you care about most. If you qualify, **your Choice Dollars can be directed every quarter, or once a year.** If you haven't directed your dollars for 2021, please call Thrivent or go online to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com).

## Thrivent Action Teams

Did you know that if you're a Thrivent member, you can apply for a **\$250 gift card** to help with a service activity or fundraiser? Think of all the possibilities where this could be beneficial.

**How it Works** - Think about a need in our church or community and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including: A Promotional Banner, Invitations and thank-you cards, T-shirts, and a \$250 Impact Card you can use as seed money to get your project off the ground and make a bigger impact. Details and guidelines can be found online.

How often am I eligible? Benefit members are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members one per year.

**Go to Thrivent.com**, click on "Making a Difference", then "Thrivent Action Teams". You will need a User ID and Password to apply. If questions, call the church office and we can help get you started.

## **Support St. Paul and Bring in Your Used Ink Cartridges**

**Please keep bringing in your ink cartridges and turn them to cash!**

**Drop Off** in the box on the wooden cabinet outside of the Church Office or in the cabinet in the narthex. **Large Laser cartridges are no longer accepted.** Please only bring in small ink cartridges. Thank you!



# IRA Distribution / Thrivent Info / Thanks

## Orphan Grain Train

Ogt.org

**Wish List** - Items can be placed in the barrel outside the church or school office.

1. Prayers for God's blessings on this ministry.
2. Cash donations to pay for shipping. Checks can be sent to Orphan Grain Train-Michigan, 126 E. Main St., Sebawaing, MI 48759 or by credit card at [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org) click "Donate Now."
3. Infant Supplies - Cloth and Disposable Diapers, Layettes, Stuffed Toys
4. Medical Equipment and Supplies - Bed & Bath Linens, Sheets, Disposable Gowns and Gloves, Hospital Beds, Walkers, Wheel Chairs, Crutches, Canes, Stethoscopes, Blood Pressure Cuffs
5. Hygiene Supplies (kit instructions on website) - Sanitary Products for Women, Toothbrushes, Diapers for Adults & Babies, Towels & Washcloths, Bar Soap, Combs
6. School Supplies (kit instructions on website) - Backpacks, New Coloring Books, Crayons, Ballpoint Pens, Pencils, Writing Paper, Notebooks, Sports Equipment such as Soccer Balls, Bats, Baseballs, Ball Gloves, & Uniforms
7. Clothing (gently used or new for Infant, Children, Women, Men) Clean & Wearable Shoes, NEW Underwear - all ages, Socks
8. Quilts, Comforters, Blankets, Towels, Washcloths

### **Mission Statement**

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a **child** well fed.

### **What is Orphan Grain Train?**

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

### **Orphan Grain Train Changes Lives**

Across the globe hungry, destitute people live day to day without warm clothing, nourishing food, clean water, shelter or medical care. In 1992 Pastor Ray Wilke saw that need face to face, and determined to make a positive impact on as many people as possible. Today Orphan Grain Train has shipped to 69 different countries, sharing God's mercy and love by meeting the needs of the hopeless.

## LEAP News Nugget

Education Boards of our Lutheran Schools Engage in Board Self-Evaluation and Growth Processes

For more than a decade now, one of the Lutheran Education Advancement Plan's various thrusts has had to do with supporting education boards in their governance of Lutheran schools. Since mid-2013, a LEAP "Education Board Training Task Force" has devoted attention to development and refinement of a LEAP document entitled "Best Practices of Boards of Education (or Equivalent Governing Entities) of Lutheran Schools."

The document reflects wise input from LCMS educational leaders locally as well as at the Michigan District and national Synodical levels. Copies of the resulting LEAP Best Practices of Boards of Education of Lutheran Schools (pdf) document and its companion LEAP Boards of Education Self-Assessment Instrument (pdf) document are in print and available in our school offices and elsewhere, and also accessible at our [leap-alliance.com](http://leap-alliance.com) website, followed by a click to RESOURCES.

Learning and drawing upon the LEAP education boards best practices occurs as follows:

Step 1) An individual school principal and his or her education board members each complete the self-assessment instrument and send their individual, confidential assessments to the LEAP Education Board Training Task Force, for tabulation.

Step 2) Returns of the full tabulation results are sent back to the principal and board members.

Step 3) A meeting of the full Task Force with the particular principal and education board members is conducted to engage in discussions which include noting positives, offering praise, identifying weaknesses, offering improvement suggestions, and etc.

To date, six education boards of our 22 LEAP entities have been fully involved in all three of the above steps, and two more boards are well along the way toward also participating in all three of the steps. Four additional education boards have expressed interest in beginning involvement in the process in the near future. As new board members and/or new principals periodically come onto boards, the process can be repeated, which is recommended and encouraged.

Questions? . . . Contact an area Lutheran school principal or education board chairperson.

## Watch for Mail!

You should have received a **letter in the mail** containing an explanation of the plans for our Building and General Fund giving, since the mortgage has recently been paid in full! Included in this mailing is also a request to update your address and phone number if you have changes. We have many ways for you to update this info, one of them is by requesting login information from the office so you can go into your own account at any time. You will also be able to see your own giving statement whenever needed. Another way to update is to scan this QR code. A few other options are shared in the letter. Thank you for your help in keeping our information current.







## December Birthdays

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



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

# December 2021



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**2020**  **ONE**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church & School Millington, MI **— IN THE —**  
**SON**



**Silent Night**  
**Holy Night**  
**All is Calm**  
**All is Bright**