



Monthly Messenger

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

July 2022

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

A Message from Pastor

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

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school.stpaul-millington.org

Rev. James Bruner
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Tim Martinal
Associate Pastor

Worship Services

Saturday - 7PM

Sunday - 9:30AM

Bible Study

Sunday 9:45 A.M.

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The term "Christian Nationalism" is relatively new and it's gaining in popularity; especially as we approach the mid-term elections this Fall. What is Christian nationalism? How is it different from patriotism? And how is it different from Christianity?

Let's start with patriotism. Patriotism is the love of country. As Christians, we should be patriotic. This means celebrating our country, working to improve our country by holding it up for critique, and working for justice when it errs. St. Peter, in 1 Peter 2:13-14, says: "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right". Martin Luther includes these words, as well as several words from St. Paul, in his "Table of Duties" of the Small Catechism, which, among other things, reminds us about our duties and responsibilities as citizens of the countries in which we live.

So, what is "Christian nationalism"? First, let's define "nationalism". Most scholars agree "nationalism" starts with the belief that humanity is divisible into mutually distinct, internally clear ethnic groups defined by shared traits like language, religion, ethnicity, or culture. Nationalists, therefore, believe that each of these groups should have their own governments; that governments should promote and protect a nation's cultural identity; and that sovereign national groups provide meaning and purpose for us as humans.

When nationalists go about constructing their nation, they have to define who is, and who is not, part of the nation. And not everyone can or will conform. In the absence of moral authority, nationalists can only establish themselves by force. Scholars are almost unanimous that nationalists tend to become authoritarian and oppressive in practice. We saw this play out in America as many individual states used Christianity as a prop to support slavery and segregation for decades.

The primary problem with "nationalism" is that humanity is not easily divisible into mutually distinct cultural groups. Cultures overlap and their borders are fuzzy. Just look at your own family tree! More than likely there are multiple cultures overlapping. Attempting to found political legitimacy on cultural likeness means political order will constantly be in danger of being felt as illegitimate by some group or other. Over time, cultural diversity is essentially inevitable in every nation.

"Christian nationalism", then, is the belief that America is defined by Christianity, and that the government must take active steps to keep it that way. Christian nationalists do not reject the First Amendment and do not advocate for theocracy (where priests rule in the name of God), but they do believe that Christianity should enjoy a privileged position in the public square. If not, America risks losing her identity and even her freedom.

Christian nationalists want to define America as a Christian nation and they want the government to promote a specific cultural blueprint as the official culture. Many Christian nationalists believe America has a special relationship with God or has been "chosen" by Him to carry out a special mission on earth that no other nation has. Some want specific restrictions on race or ethnicity. Others want the bible taught in public schools (by all teachers whether they believe it or not). Still others want to empower the government to outlaw behavior they deem to be immoral.

But Christian nationalism isn't always political. Many times it is evident in the attitudes held by those who believe Christians are entitled to primacy of place in the public square because they are the heirs of the true heritage of American culture. That Christians have the right to define America and her future because they see themselves as America's first citizens, and therefore guardians of the nation, is their God-given birth rite.

(Continued on next page)



The July Messenger Sponsor:

Blessings from the Roy & Shirley Petzold Family

Pastor Article Con't. / Scripture / Summer Worship Times

(Pastor Article Continued)

Where Christian nationalism becomes dangerous is that non-Christians are treated as second-class citizens at best, and as criminals at worst. And there's a growing fear, and a growing political rhetoric to stoke those fears, that Christians are victims of persecution (which, by-and-large, we are not). And many believers are prepared to fight, with weapons of war if need be, to protect "Christian" values.

In reality, "Christian nationalism" takes the name of Jesus Christ for a worldly political agenda. This is wrong. Jesus Himself said: "My kingdom is not of this world" in answer to Pontius Pilate (John 18:36). Only the Church is authorized to proclaim the name of Jesus and carry His Gospel to the world. Treating the message of Jesus as a tool of political propaganda and the Church as cheerleader of the state is dangerous and will always undermine the Gospel. Not only will it harm the nation, it will harm the Church as well. We're beginning to see this play out.

True Christianity is focused on the person and work of Jesus Christ for our salvation. The Church is the gathering of people "from every nation and tribe and people and language" who worship Christ as Lord and Savior (Revelation 7:9). We have a faith that unites Jews and Greeks, Americans and non-Americans together.

A good rule of thumb to remember in order to determine if something is "Christian nationalism" or true Christianity is this: The fruit of "Christian nationalism" is fear, coercion, justifying violence, power by any means, slander, hate, exclusion, aggression, and controlling others. But the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

While there is no single biblical view on what government should look like or how it should be structured, Christianity is political, in the sense that our faith is to affect and challenge our worldly loyalties, and in some instances, to surpass them. Regardless of how our nation is governed, our Christian faith and duty is to "fear God, honor the king", pay our taxes, love our neighbors, walk humbly, and seek justice.

Yes. American Christians in the past were exemplary in helping establish America, and many American Christians worked to end slavery, segregation, and other evils. They did so because they believed they were called by God to do such things. But they worked to advance biblical and Christian principles, not Christian power. Normal Christian political engagement is humble, loving, and sacrificial; always pointed in acts of service for the betterment of our neighbor, whoever they might be.

Today, in order to be heard in the public square (for we aren't guaranteed a prominent voice in the public square by God), Christians should seek to love our neighbors as ourselves. This includes working against abortion, promoting religious liberty, treating all races as equally created in the image of God, protecting the rule of law, and honoring our government.

So as we celebrate July 4th and the freedoms and blessings we, Christians, have freely received from God's hand, let us work toward the goal of the Great Commission, not the "Great America". Let us make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the name of our Triune God and teaching them everything Jesus Christ commanded us, not baptizing them in the "red, white, and blue" and teaching them everything our society commands us. If we do this, we may lose our prominent position in the public square, but we will gain a faithful citizenship in the kingdom of God, which alone will last into eternity.

In Christ, Pastor Tim Martinal

Acknowledgments -Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Many thoughts and ideas are from "What Is Christian Nationalism?", by Paul D. Miller, *Christianity Today.com*, Posted February 3, 2021. The article is located at: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/February-web-only/what-is-christian-nationalism.html>. Accessed June 9, 2022.

Scripture Readings

July 3rd

Isaiah 66:10-14

Gal. 6:1-10, 14-18

Luke 10:1-20

July 10th

Lev. 19:9-18

Col. 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 17th

Gen. 18:1-10a

Col. 1:21-29

Luke 10:38-42

July 24th

Gen. 18:20-33

Col. 2:6-15

Luke 11:1-13

July 31st

Ecccl. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26

Col. 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

St. Paul Summer Worship Times

Saturdays at 7PM, **Sundays at 9:30** (+ Livestream)

Bible Study Sunday at 10:45AM in the Parish Hall

Faith on Fire for separate ages and the nursery will be on break for the summer. You are welcome to bring your children to Bible Study to listen.

*Contemporary 1st & 3rd Sundays

*Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays

Saturday communion will follow the 1st & 3rd Sundays

*Matins 5th Sunday Weekend

Upcoming Events / Meetings

Upcoming Events

Zumba

Zumba Wednesdays at 6PM and Saturdays at 10AM in the Activity Center. \$1 at the door!

Open Volleyball

for girls entering 4th-8th grade Thursdays from 7-9PM beginning June 16th.

Men's Bible Study

Sat., July 2nd at 8AM in the Library.

Guest Preachers

Join us for worship as we continue our anniversary celebration with the following guest preachers:

July 16/17
Rev. Hanneman

July 30/31
Tim Kern

Meetings

Social Concerns

Tues., July 5th at 5:30PM in the Council Room

Stewardship

Tues., July 5th at 7PM

Council

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

Stephen Ministry

Mon., July 11th at 7PM in the Gathering Room

Board of Education

Tues., July 12th at 6PM in the Computer Lab

Elders

Wed., July 27th at 7PM in the Gathering Room

Congratulations to the Eighth Grade Class of 2022

Joseph Bassett

Hunter Dennis

Landyn Duncan

Conner Erlenbeck

Grace Erlenbeck

Brady Petzold

Qwilleran Schmandt

Abigail Skouson

Grace Erlenbeck – Salutatorian
Qwilleran Schmandt – Valedictorian

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. We will reply as soon as we can. In case of emergency, call Pastor Bruner 989-233-1994 or Pastor Martinal 402-672-9817.

Connect Your Child to a Spiritual Home While they are at College

If you have a child attending college in the state of Michigan there is a network of campus ministry pastors throughout the state who want to help your college students find a spiritual community. Call the church office with your information and we will help them find one of our active campus ministries or a local congregation.



Building Fund Change

Information for Stewardship Giving after Closing of Building Fund

In November 2021, when St. Paul Lutheran Church paid off the mortgage balance, the congregation was no longer actively in the "building" phase. There were no active plans for building in the near future.

Because the congregation was not actively in a "building" phase, it was suggested that the Building Fund be discontinued and the funds be transferred into the General Fund. The main focus changed to building up our staff and maintaining/improving current facilities and property.

The Council made the decision to close the Building Fund on December 31, 2021 and any Building Fund contributions after December 31, 2021 would go to the General Fund to build up our staff. A letter was mailed to the congregation at the end of November regarding this change.

At the February Voters meeting, the Voters approved any remaining funds left in the Building Fund to be transferred to the General Fund. The amount of \$5,725.22 was transferred to the General Fund.

The Voters also approved the establishment of a new fund—Facility and Property Improvements Fund. This new fund will be used for major maintenance/improvements of the building and grounds of the church and school.

We understand this can be confusing when you are supporting the mission of our church and school. However, please remember that **any fund** you give to supports our mission. The following are instructions to help with this change:

Online giving --whether it be the mobile app, online, or through the St. Paul website, any funds you have designated for the Building Fund will go into the General Fund. If you still have the Building Fund designation set up for online giving, we ask that you change it to the General Fund or another fund. We are unable to remove that designation until everyone changes their Building Fund designation. If you prefer to give to another fund, please choose that designation.

Envelope giving—The General Fund and Missions can still be used. Any amounts you put on the Building Fund line will go to the General Fund. If you prefer to give to a building related fund, please cross out the Building Fund description and write in Facility & Property Improvements Fund.

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)

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.

Calendar/Door Scheduling

If you need to book an event, practice, or meeting, **you need to check with the church office to be sure the date is available.**

Please Remember - If you need the **doors unlocked** for your event, call the church office at least a few days in advance so we can have them set for you. We want to prevent conflicts from occurring. Thank you!

Grantparent Fund

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 needs 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. Make checks payable to St. Paul School. Thank-you in advance for blessing our children with your prayers and support.

Daily Lectionary / Serve & Volunteer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Joshua 8:1-28 Acts 11:1-18	4 Joshua 10:1-25 Acts 11:19-30	5 Joshua 23:1-16 Acts 12:1-25	6 Joshua 24:1-31 Acts 13:1-12	7 Judg. 2:6-23 Acts 13:13-41	8 Judg. 3:7-31 Acts 13:42-52	9 Judg. 4:1-24 Acts 14:1-18
10 Judg. 6:1-24 Acts 14:19-15:5	11 Judg. 6:25-40 Acts 15:6-21	12 Judg. 7:1-23 Gal. 1:1-24	13 Judg. 13:1-25 Gal. 2:1-21	14 Judg. 14:1-20 Gal. 3:1-22	15 Judg. 15:1-16:3 Gal. 3:23-4:11	16 Judg. 16:4-30 Gal. 4:12-31
17 1 Sam. 1:1-20 Gal. 5:1-26	18 1 Sam. 1:21-2:17 Gal. 6:1-18	19 1 Sam. 2:18-36 Acts 15:22-41	20 1 Sam. 3:1-21 Acts 16:1-22	21 1 Sam. 4:1-22 Acts 16:23-40	22 1 Sam. 5:1-6:3; 10-16 Acts 18:1-11; 23-28	23 1 Sam. 6:19-7:17 Acts 19:1-22
24 1 Sam. 8:1-22 Acts 21:15-36	25 1 Sam. 9:1-27 Acts 21:37-22:16	26 1 Sam. 10:1-27 Acts 22:17-29	27 1 Sam. 12:1-25 Acts 22:30-23:11	28 1 Sam. 13:1-18 Acts 23:12-35	29 1 Sam. 14:47-15:9 Acts 24:1-23	30 1 Sam. 15:10-35 Acts 24:24-25:12
31 1 Sam. 16:1-23 Acts 25:13-27						

Opportunities to Serve, Volunteer, and Donate

We are looking for prayer warriors and a head contact person to get our **prayer chain** back up and running. Anyone can pray – you will be added to the chain and receive a phone call as the prayer requests come in. To be added to the list, sign up on the glass case or call the church office.

We are in need of a **Jubilee Jr. Bells Director** for the upcoming school year. If interested in helping these ring-a-lings (grades 4-8), contact the school office at 989-871-4581 ext. 4.

We are planning on putting a few floats together for the 125th anniversary to share our celebration of God's love with our community. If you can help, please contact the school office or sign up in the church narthex. We would like to hand out bottled water so if your family could donate a case or two it would be appreciated. We also need families to pass out bottled water. **If we do not have enough volunteers by Sunday, July 17th we will not be able to do this event.**

Will you serve the Lord? **We need volunteers to run the livestream** during the summer. If our members do not step forward, there may be Sundays with no livestream. Please consider this service. Col. 3:23

Anyone wishing to **help prepare sack lunches** to take to the mission are asked to come to the St. Paul kitchen on **Fri., July 8th** at 1:30PM. Monetary donations are welcomed and needed for the lunches. Contact Paul Schoenknecht 871-2280 if you are willing to help.

At the end of June we will be getting a **new swing set and two new playscapes**. Watch for updates in the church bulletin, on Facebook, and email for our build day. We will need "many hands to make light work". We are truly blessed to be gifted with these items.

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. Sign up at smile.amazon.com, add **St. Pauls Lutheran School** as your charity, and start shopping! It's that easy! We earn a percentage on every order.



Financial Summary / Memorials / Misc.

May 2022 Income & Expense Summary

May General Fund Income:	\$96,399.18
May General Fund Expenses:	\$96,625.10
May surplus (deficit)	\$(225.92)
Overall surplus (deficit) to date	\$81,868.18
Gen Fund Checking Balance	\$206,748.11

RESTRICTED Cash Accounts Summary**

School Designated Accounts balance:	\$110,763.33
Church Designated Accounts balance:	\$103,208.39
All Memorials balance:	\$19,376.27
** This money is RESTRICTED***	\$233,347.99

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contributions to Grantparent Fund May	\$572.45
Chicken Rotisserie weekend net proceeds	\$1,019.76

Memorials & Special Gifts

May Memorials for 125th Anniversary	\$275.00
In Memory of Bernice Schiefer General Fund	\$60.00
In Memory of Stan Burkowski General Fund	\$17.00
In Memory of Sheryl Schiefer General Fund	\$20.00
In Memory of Donna Reinert General Fund	\$20.00
In Memory of Josh Burns General Fund	\$278.00

St. Paul History Book

The updated edition of the **St. Paul History Book** is available to purchase for a \$5.00 donation. Call the church office to buy a copy.

Children's Bulletins

Children's Bulletin Drawing - If your **child completes and turns in their children's bulletin** in the marked box in the lobby, they are entered into a drawing for a gift to strengthen and encourage their faith. Once a month, one (1) bulletin will be drawn at random for the gift. Please include a name and contact information. Every week is another opportunity to enter. This is a great way to encourage your child to participate in worship.

thank you

Thank you to my family and friends who helped me celebrate my 92nd birthday. It was very, very nice!
-Marian Reinert

Thank you for all the get well and birthday cards I received. All are appreciated. -Lloyd Taylor

New Outdoor Locks

The outside **doors will be getting new locks** sometime in the next month or so. If you have an **old swipe card** and still need to access the building, call the church office to replace it.

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!



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

July Birthdays

Sherry	ILL	1	Logan	Adamic	12	Tammy	Simmons	24
Dwight	Keinath	1	Margaret	Higgins	12	Michele	Alberts	24
Grace	Hibner	1	Laura	Simon	12	Degrick	Koch	24
Maureen	Sowden	1	Gabrielle	Sherman	13	Justin	Steepe	24
Sandy	Weber	2	Lydia	Bruner	13	Eileen	Ziegler	25
Qwill	Schmandt	2	Brittney	Cartner	13	Larry	Stevens	25
Suzanne	Bleuer	2	Madalynn	Paquette	13	Cheyene	Pashby	25
Robert	Ames	2	Kathryn	Snyder	13	Coy	Thomason	25
David	Edler	2	Keith	Woolwine	14	Mellonie	Dues	25
Wendy	Edler	2	Patricia	Petzold	14	Fred	Erlenbeck	26
Ashley	Wolverton	2	Andrew	Jaruzel	14	Ronald	Johnson	26
Lynzee	Burns	3	Aurianna	Rogers	14	Frederick	List	26
Dianne	Scarborough	3	Kimberly	Peche	14	Jeffrey	Platt	26
Kent	Singer	4	Daryl	Benish	15	Lola	Wendt	26
Barbara	Smith	4	Megan	Butterfield	15	Seth	Holmes	26
Erica	Cunningham	4	Erin	Thompson	15	Cindy	Kralik	26
Jayson	Mays	4	Connie	Titsworth	15	Nicholas	Maschke	26
Madison	Hoard	5	Erik	Torrey	15	Dusty	Higgins	27
Dani	Ayotte	6	Dwight	Rodammer	16	Isabel	Ketels	27
Paige	Ayotte	6	Pat	Saeger	16	Dean	Rohn	27
Dick	Kolaja	6	Brooke	Shaffer	16	Diane	Sebert	27
Les	Maxson	6	Mark	Romain	17	Blake	Ferrier	27
Aaron	Singer	6	Scott	Heike	17	Michael	Hibbard	27
Tim	Singer	6	Dennis	Shaffer	17	Aaron	Knoll	27
Richard	Myers	7	Ben	Daenzer	18	Donna	Osborn	27
Virginia	Osborn	7	Deklan	Hager	18	Kolton	Woolwine	27
Heather	Sergent	7	Neil	Hecht	18	Paula	Kukulski	28
Morgan	Aulbert	7	Renae	Roth	18	Christy	Ostrander	28
Jeffrey	Boerneke	7	Owen	Schultz	18	David	Russell	28
Mark	Paquette	8	Kasen	Ewing	19	Rebecca	Dalton	29
Karen B.	Petzold	8	Alexis	Alberts	19	Mike	Kern	29
Amy	France	8	Brian	Bentley	19	Larry	Petzold	29
Renee	Hecht	9	Matthias	Grulke	19	Philip	Petzold	29
Bud	Zeck	9	Bret	Holmes	19	Amy	Yorke	29
Ethan	Casto	9	Nathan	Staple	19	Anthony	DeOrnellas	29
Jenelle	Keinath	9	Decima	Sebastian	19	Katelinn	Koeltzow	29
Ashley	O'Dell	9	Kevin	Clouse	20	Glenn	Reinert	29
Bradley	Wilson	9	Abraham	Higgins	20	Elizabeth	Zeck	29
Aaron	Keinath	10	Brianna	Burns	20	Tucker	Woolwine	29
Dennis	Rodammer	10	Velva	Cobanovich	20	Hans	Schmandt	30
Nancy	Wilson	10	Laura	Sherman	21	Bethany	Daenzer	30
Kaden	List	10	Nathaniel	Okorowski	21	Sherry	Sebert	30
Dale	Higgins	11	Isaac	Koch	21	Bonnie	Wittum	30
Muriel	Mohr	11	Linda	Henderson	22	Randy	Wolverton	30
Makenna	Stratton	11	Hunter	Wirsing	22	Sierra	Goodhue	30
Karen	Petzold	11	Jessica	Allen	22	Shane	Reinig	31
Cameron	Schiefer	11	Addison	Ley	22	Russell, Jr.	Hayden	31
Shirley A.	Petzold	12	Shirley Ann	Petzold	22	Braxton	Long	31
Scott	Reinig	12	Brianna	Weber	23	Constance	Wells	31
Kristie	White	12	Ryan	Woodward	23			



St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
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Millington, MI 48746

July
2022



Everyone's journey
is different.
Don't compare
your path to
someone else's.