



Monthly Messenger

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

November 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, Are your political views and convictions growing in intensity? Are you finding yourself feeling angrier than you used to about a variety of political issues? Are people in your extended family, community, and here at St. Paul becoming angrier?

In addition to being in the midst of a global pandemic, widespread demonstrations about racial injustice, and an election year, we live in a media saturated environment where hate and division trigger wider viewership, larger ratings, and significantly higher advertising revenue. Media outlets on both the left and right are using language and tactics to provoke anger, alienate people, and teardown whomever "the other" might be. As a result, we are becoming more divided and less respectful towards people who hold different political views than we might.

In such an environment, how can we, as individual Christians, live? First, we need to ask ourselves a series of questions.

Who or what am I trusting to provide for my future? More and more it seems we are trusting in our political party. By doing this, we come dangerously close to making our political party an idol. Political idolatry happens when we begin trusting what a human leader or political party can do for us more than we focus on our Heavenly Father, our true provider who calls us to trust Him and not worry (Matthew 6:25-34). As Martin Luther so succinctly states: "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things" (Small Catechism, First Commandment).

How am I treating people who disagree with me? All humans, despite their political views, are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-28). All humans are someone for whom Jesus died. Jesus says that whatever we do to "the least of these" we have done to Him (Matthew 25:31-46). In our current environment, "the least of these" are often whoever is on the other side of the political spectrum, and they are someone for whom Jesus died.

Who is forming my core identity? Discipleship is the process of forming a new core identity. Too often, we let our political idolatry form our core identity. This often leads to a distorted Christian life. We say we are followers of Jesus, but our attitudes, words, and behaviors begin resembling the message of politicians and media personalities more than our

Risen Lord. As the Holy Spirit brings us the gift of faith in Jesus, we become children of God (Romans 8:14-17). And the chief aim of our life as God's children is to grow in Christ-likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:14-21).

Now that we've addressed these questions, we need to reflect on how we, as disciples of Jesus, live out our faith in our current environment.

It's been said that a true disciple of Jesus will be a political nomad, as both the left and right promote ideas and policies that are godly and ungodly. This means we should look for the people, principles, and platforms that will uphold and advance God's will in the world. Basically, we should look for ways that will best serve our neighbor and their needs. After all, God's will can be summed up thusly: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

What does this look like? First, consider your nearest neighbor and their most important need. The defenseless neighbor facing imminent death has a more pressing need than one who wants a new community park. Second, the protection of human life always outweighs the improvement of human life. And lastly, the stuff we accumulate and want to keep ranks last. Respect for each and every human person ranks ahead of any alleged right to keep what is "ours". Because we, as Christians, know that what we "own" belongs to God.

Our first and greatest task as disciples of Jesus is not the furthering of America; but the furthering of God's kingdom by making disciples of all people by baptizing and teaching them everything Jesus commanded us. As Christians, we have the unique calling to proclaim "Good News" to all people, regardless of political affiliation. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, has removed the divisions among people where hatred and prejudice has separated them for generations. Jesus reconciled through Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross (Colossians 1:20).

The world needs what the Church has – the Gospel. And every disciple of Jesus needs to set aside political idolatry so people can see our Risen Lord. It doesn't mean we refrain from engaging in political processes or seek to influence our society. It does mean we keep Christ and His teachings first and foremost as we do this.

In Christ,
Pastor Tim Martinal

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

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

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*The November Messenger is sponsored
in memory of Paul Bleuer
from his Aunts Mary and Alice.*

St. Paul Worship News / Scripture / Memorials

Worship Service Times

Saturdays at 7PM

Sundays at 10AM (Also live streamed)

Traditional service with Communion
on the 2nd and 4th weekends.

Contemporary service
on the 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.

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. 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.

Memorials & Special Gifts

In Memory of Irene Smith	
General Fund	\$25.00
School Fund	\$10.00
In Memory of Wilma Knoll	
Building Fund	\$15.00
In Memory of Dale Peche	
General Fund	\$70.00
Memorials Undesignated	\$10.00
In Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ed & Marcia Keinath	
Building Fund	\$150.00
School Fund	\$50.00
In Memory of Joyce Koch	
General Fund	\$60.00
Memorials Undesignated	\$20.00
In Memory of Robert Brown	
Memorials Undesignated	\$250.00

Scripture Readings

Nov. 1st

Rev. 7:2-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

Nov. 8th

Amos 5:18-24

1 Thess. 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Nov. 15th

Zeph. 1:7-16

1 Thess. 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Nov. 22nd

Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24

1 Cor. 15:20-28

Matthew 25:31-46

Nov. 29th

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Cor. 1:3-9

Mark 11:1-10 or 13:24-37



**WORSHIP
ANEW**

Lutheran Ministries "Worship for Shut-Ins"

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

Sundays at 11:30AM on WAQP 49

Nov. 1st - "What We Will Be" - 1 John 3:2

Nov. 8th - "Foolishness and Wisdom" - Matt. 25:13

Nov. 15th - "Investing Your Gifts" - Matt. 25:14-30

Nov. 22nd - "In Order" - 1 Cor. 15:20-28

Nov. 29th - "The Happiness Watch" - Mark 13:37





St. Paul Lutheran School

November 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.

God has richly blessed us in so many ways, despite the pandemic! He has blessed us with another beautiful landscape of His autumn creation with a gorgeous array of color all around us. During this month, we prepare for many special family events, maybe in different ways than we usually gather. Let's set aside some time to really thank Him for what we have been blessed with and remember that He is ALWAYS with us along that pathway, giving us His mercy every day!

Our school has been blessed to be face-to-face since August. We ask that you continue to pray for the students, teacher/pastors and staff. Pray that we all stay healthy and that we continue to remember daily that we are all Sent to Serve our Heavenly Father and bring others to the Savior!



Important November Dates

Oct. 31	Daylight Savings Time (Fall back 1 hour)
Nov. 6	Half day of classes dismissal at 11:15 a.m. NO BUS
Nov. 20	Parent pick-up at end of day (2:45 p.m.)
Nov. 24	Half day of classes dismissal at 11:15 a.m. NO BUS
Nov. 23 & 24	Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov. 25-29	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Vacation



November Sports



We are thankful for a safe season for the girl's volleyball & soccer teams. Thank you to the players, coaches, parents and fans for your help and support throughout the seasons. Now we move into the basketball seasons. The boys start the play followed by the girl's game. Find a way to show your support for the children as they use their God-given talents.

Girl's & Boy's B-team Basketball

Nov. 11	with St. Michael's, Richville	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 17	at St. Paul United (Flint)	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 20	with St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	6:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	with Trinity, Reese (Trinity-Trost)	4:30 p.m.



Happy Thanksgiving



*Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
I Corinthians 10:31*

Daily Lectionary / Finance Report / Orphan Grain Train

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Deut. 34:1-12 Matt. 21:1-22	2 Jer. 1:1-19 Matt. 21:23-46	3 Jer. 3:6-4:2 Matt. 22:1-22	4 Jer. 5:1-19 Matt. 22:23-46	5 Jer. 7:1-29 Matt. 23:1-12	6 Jer. 8:18-9:12 Matt. 23:13-39	7 Jer. 11:1-23 Matt. 24:1-28
8 Jer. 20:1-18 Matt. 24:29-51	9 Jer. 22:1-23 Matt. 25:1-13	10 Jer. 23:1-20 Matt. 25:14-30	11 Jer. 23:21-40 Matt. 25:31-46	12 Jer. 25:1-18 Matt. 26:1-19	13 Jer. 26:1-19 Matt. 26:20-35	14 Jer. 29:1-19 Matt. 26:36-56
15 Jer. 30:1-24 Matt. 26:57-75	16 Jer. 31:1-17, 23-34 Matt. 27:1-10	17 Jer. 33:1-22 Matt. 27:11-32	18 Jer. 37:1-21 Matt. 27:33-56	19 Jer. 38:1-28 Matt. 27:57-66	20 Dan. 1:1-21 Matt. 28:1-20	21 Dan. 2:1-23 Rev. 18:1-24
22 Dan. 2:24-49 Rev. 19:1-21	23 Dan. 3:1-30 Rev. 20:1-15	24 Dan. 4:1-37 Rev. 21:1-8	25 Dan. 5:1-30 Rev. 21:9-27	26 Dan. 6:1-28 Rev. 22:1-21	27 Is. 1:1-28 1 Pt. 1:1-12	28 Is. 2:1-22 1 Pt. 1:13-25
29 Is. 5:1-25 1 Pt. 2:1-12	30 Is. 6:1-7:9 1 Pt. 2:13-25		November Daily Lectionary			

Special Thanks!

Thank you to all of you for the thoughts and prayers during my injury, surgery, and recovery. They are all very much appreciated! -Shelli Lugg

CEF Building Fund Summary

Mortgage Balance as of 09/30/2020: \$393,059.50

Debt free date if nothing changes: March 2024

September 2020 Mortgage Payment \$10,000.00

* Principal \$8,684.98

* Interest \$1,315.02

Sept. offerings received to pay mortgage: \$10,178.26

Amount Added to contingency fund: \$3,386.45

Balance as of 9/30/20 in contingency fund: \$75,109.14

Sept. 2020 Income & Expense Summary

General Fund Income: \$68,564.20

General Fund Expenses: \$83,479.08

Sept. Deficit (\$14,914.88)

Overall Deficit to date (\$19,981.47)

Gen Fund Checking Balance (Deficit): (\$3,438.14)

Grantparent Program

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.

QUILTS FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN—MICHIGAN

Many Women's Quilting Groups across the church may have recently learned Covid-19 is keeping them from contributing quilts where they previously have done so. Nevertheless, quilters have a very viable option. Orphan Grain Train—Michigan located in Sebewaing continues to receive and distribute quilts, blankets, clothing, and medical equipment without restriction. Far from being constrained, Orphan Grain Train remains busy processing donated goods for distribution. Quilts are among the most appreciated items from caring women who devote great effort making them. In February an international shipment from the OGT-M Center in Sebewaing arrived in Kyrgyzstan to benefit struggling people just as the pandemic hit that region of Asia. The Michigan warehouse of Orphan Grain Train is now being stocked for further Christian humanitarian aid world-wide. Another shipment is planned for this autumn likely to Central America. For information about donating quilts or other goods, contact branch manager, Pastor David Reed (989-600-2264).

Happy Thanksgiving

November Birthdays

Kylie Gaval	1	Janice Gordon	13	Laura Blue	24
Bradyn Henderson	1	Violet Hornfeld	13	Jacob Gorsuch	24
George Corrigan, III	2	Diane Mills	13	Rodger Grulke	24
Tammy Weber	2	Swayzii Sebert	13	Emily Hunt	24
Trisha Ferrier	3	Randall Daenzer	14	Lillie Keinath	24
Dawn Meacham	4	Evan Hoard	14	Ann McPherson	24
Melissa Petzold	4	Brandon Rude	14	Shawn Bouck	25
Connor Erlenbeck	5	Amy Saeger	14	Joshua Lux	25
Grace Erlenbeck	5	Austin Weber	14	James MacKay	25
Jillian Fackler	5	Shellie Cerasoli/Fraiser	15	Jill Webster	25
Brett Bassett	6	Harland Goodhue	15	Jill Erlenbeck	26
Chuck Eilers	6	Michael Griesing	15	Harry Keipinger	26
Hailey Ketels	6	Rachel Higgins	15	Maddison Matthews	26
Austin Koch	6	Aurelia Kissel	15	Jason Stiers	26
Steve Adamic	7	Scott Koch	15	Emma Zeck	26
Tasha Devereaux	7	Kellie Reinert	15	Jeremy Love	27
Randy Hutchinson	7	Joseph Bassett	16	Nicole Smith	27
Landon Petzold	7	Joshua Sr Burns	16	Cory Stange	27
Michael Sherman	7	James, Sr. Henderson	16	Tracy Anderson	28
Abby Skouson	7	Jim Kribs	16	Brittany Nelson	28
Tricia Borcharding	8	Caden Heike	17	Dakota Stevens	29
Faith Damm	8	Nathan Burns	18	David Wiacek	29
Ashleigh Devereaux	8	Kailee Fackler	18	Earl Casto	30
Sharon Gross	8	James Petzold	18	Sharon Cunningham	30
Paul Keipinger	8	Michael Soteropoulos	18	Brandon Dormire	30
Peyton Schmandt	8	Roger Wendt	18	Bernice Hinz	30
Amanda Bickel	9	Brian White	18	Peyton Sheppard	30
Becca Jacobs	9	Easton Aguirre	19	Keira Wiacek	30
Lori Jones	9	David Hergenreder	19		
Monica Koeltzow	9	Dylan Holmes	19		
Zachary Maas	9	Conner MacKay	19		
Les Miller	9	John Clouse	20		
Stephanie Carlyon	10	Bruce Edler	20		
Alanna Kabat	10	Gail Holmes	20		
Randy Keinath	10	Leon Kuberski	20		
Richard Milostan	10	Joyce Wager	20		
Ray Peche	10	Jamie Fackler	21		
Robin Rohn	10	Benjamin Shreve	21		
Briana Schmandt	10	Hailey Paquette	22		
Lisa Weiss	10	Christian Selich	22		
Kenneth Wilson	10	Sarah Stewart	22		
Don Bierlein	11	Danny Detgen	23		
Nathan Bouck	12	Annabelle Hayden	23		
Myrna Clouse	12	Sarah Jolly	23		
Millie Maurer	12	Tony Kohler	23		
Maggie Cobb	13	Amanda Maschke	23		





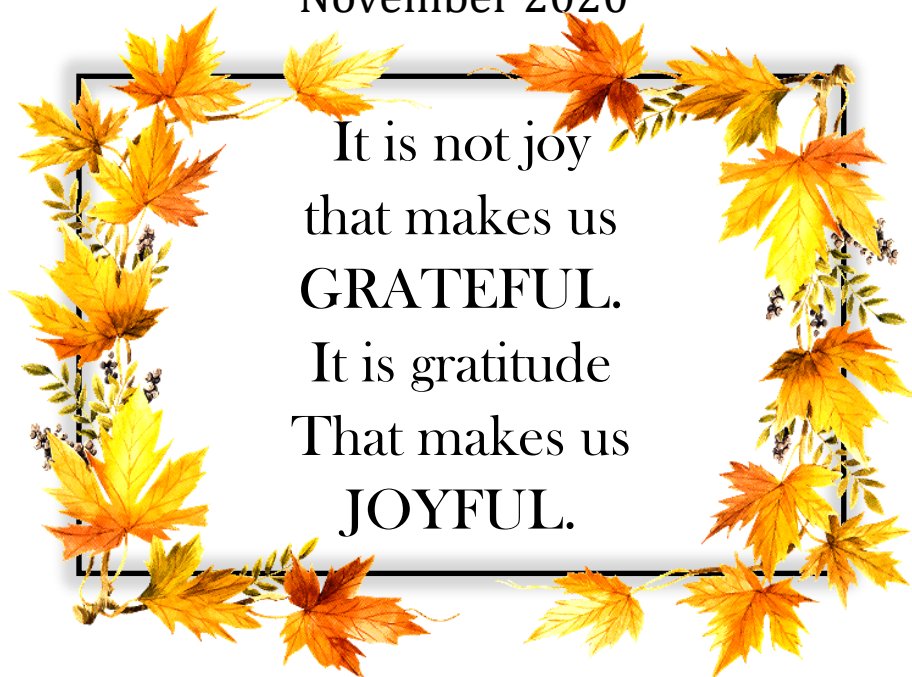
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November



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It is not joy
that makes us
GRATEFUL.
It is gratitude
That makes us
JOYFUL.