

St. Paul Monthly Messenger

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4941 W. Center St.
Millington, MI 48746
www.stpaul-millington.org

April 2008

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*The April Messenger is
sponsored by
The Kirby Company
of Millington.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

March Madness is over and the final seconds of the championship game of the NCAA basketball playoffs are coming. The winning team will have faced a variety of opponents. With each new game, the winning team used an effective game plan.

In the Church, what is our game plan as we face a variety of opponents?

In a letter from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod president it was stated, "How will our role and identity be defined in this century? A culture accepting of atheism and non-Christian pluralism, marked by religious apathy, indifference and hostility, and infused with self-defined world views that borrow from conglomerations of any of the above is not one that can be engaged with approaches that assume Christian presuppositions." People in the United States of America have become less grounded upon Christian values.

Another letter I read shows the impact in the Thumb of Michigan. Teen Ranch provided a residential program for troubled teens. "After more than 40 years, the State of Michigan refused to refer children to the Ranch due solely to the unapologetic Christian character of our program. At the time, approximately 85% of the Ranch's funding came from these referrals. In response, the Board of Directors refused to relinquish our Christian character and chose to forgo all public funding." The United States' Supreme Court REFUSED in early December 2007 to hear arguments from representation of Teen Ranch. Efforts to initiate private funding were unsuccessful. The Ranch is permanently closed because of its firm stance to share Jesus Christ within its game plan (program).

What does this all mean? In order for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to reach a non-Christian world and for ministry to be done in His name, God plans on using Christians **to share the message of Jesus Christ** and **provide the funding** for compassionate ministry centered in His love.

Our "game" depends on each of us being prepared to face a variety of opponents. We need a plan with both a strong defense and a clear offense. The Apostle Peter writes, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander" (1 Peter 3:15-16). As a member of the St. Paul team, are you prepared to defend your faith with the Holy Spirit's help? As a member of this team are you ready to go on the offensive and provide life-changing ministries in the name of Jesus Christ?

We improve our "game" when we spend time in the Word of God. The game plan for St. Paul is to increase our reliance upon and use of God's Word. Therefore, I urge you to participate in our various Bible studies, spend time in personal devotion and pray for the ministry of our congregation. If you do not currently attend a Bible study, I invite you to start by attending a special five week "Faith For the Journey" Bible study in the Fellowship Hall. It will begin on April 19th at 9:45 a.m. and will involve all of our adult Bible study groups.

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

Calendar of Events, Serve And Volunteer

Messenger/Calendar Deadline April 20th.

Drive for the Kids

Come take a test drive on Tues., April 1st from 5-8PM here in the St. Paul parking lot. Schaefer & Bierlein will be bringing Dodge trucks, vans and cars. PTL will receive \$5.00 for everyone who fills out a simple survey and test drives. You must have a valid driver's license.

Lutheran Home Bingo will be held Wednesday, April 9th at 2PM at the home. Items needed for prizes are: postage stamps, word search puzzle books, lapel pins, holiday room decorations, shaving cream, facial tissues, knee highs, handkerchiefs, toothpaste, lotions, necklaces, anklets, candy bars, small stuffed toys. Do not bring anything in aerosol or glass containers, or anything sharp or pointed. If questions, call 871-4125, 795-3040 or 871-3662. A box is in the narthex marked "Lutheran Home Bingo Prizes." Thank you.

Voters' Assembly Meeting Sunday, April 13th at 1:30PM In the Projects Room

All ladies of St. Paul are invited to attend the next **Dorcas Lutheran Women in Mission** meeting to be held on Wed., April 16th at 7PM in the Parish Hall. Special guest speaker: Jane Olivia, from Camp Hope. Seminarian Kits are all set, but we will have an in-gathering for our Health Kit mission project. The list of needed supplies in the back of your Dorcas booklet.

A SCRAPBOOK EVENT April 19th

Sponsored by the Board of Youth & Fellowship
Come for a great time of fellowship, fun, and learning.
9AM-7PM in the Projects & Computer Room of the school. Pre register \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 at the door. *Includes: continental breakfast, luncheon of soups & sandwiches, etc., snacks, coffee & water. Bring your own stamping and/or scrapbook supplies, pictures, etc. PLEASE **R.S.V.P.** as soon as you can for the April 19th event. Sign up in the school office 871-4581 or with Page Kidd 871-5427 or e-mail: page@kidd-co.com.

Scrapbooking makes memories that last a lifetime...
Jesus makes memories that last forever!



Confirmation Rehearsal—Saturday, April 26th at 11AM. Following the rehearsal will be the Secret Angel Luncheon at noon.

Warm Hearts for Jesus – Church family members are finding it difficult to provide adequate heat for their families. Please prayerfully consider helping by putting donations in an envelope marked "Hearts for Jesus" and placing in the offering plate or bringing to the church office.



It has been brought to our attention that when **donations** are asked for, such as Soup Suppers, Breakfast Club, CAMP, etc., people generally feel as if the needs are met. The opposite is true. **We need assistance**, so please ask if you are not sure.



Breakfast Club for 9th-12th graders at Millington High School every Wednesday morning at 7AM in the cafeteria. Students have **breakfast** and a **devotion** before starting school. **Help is needed with making the breakfast.** To help cook, contribute food or help monetarily, call 871-4581. Items needed weekly: sausage links or patties, muffins, chocolate milk and orange juice.

Gift Certificates (Scrip) to a wide variety of stores and restaurants are available to purchase at the school office. (We now have Walmart, Subway and Michael's.) **New forms are available in the narthex.**

***Give God what's right—
not what's left.***

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|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Deficit 2/1/08 | | (36,294.72) |
| February General Fund Income | 83,039.38 | |
| February General Fund Expenses | <u>90,542.60</u> | |
| February Balance | | <u>(7,503.22)</u> |
| Ending Deficit 2/29/08 | | <u>(43,797.94)</u> |
| Missions (Budgeted & Non-Budgeted) | | 2,769.40 |
| T.I.M. | | 1,170.50 |
| Building Fund | | 13,574.04 |



TIGER TICKETS ORDER FORM

Lutheran Night is Friday, August 8th

The bus will leave St. Paul at 4PM and
will return around midnight.

All seats include the bus ride
and are located in section 112.

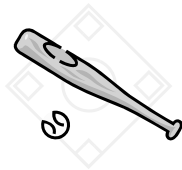
Game Seat \$32.00 + Bus Seat \$14.50 = \$46.50

NAME _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS _____ X \$46.50 = _____

Please return form to church office with checks made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church.
Direct any questions to Jan Snyder 871-4420.

The church has paid for these seats up front, so we could be assured of good seats. If you plan on going, it will help our current financial situation if you could pay for your tickets as soon as possible. Contact Jan Snyder @ 871-4420 with any questions.



Memorials and Special Gifts, Hymn of the Month

April 2008 MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

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|---|-------------------------------|
| IN HONOR OF Brian Meier Stephen Ministry | \$20.00 |
| IN HONOR OF Steve & Mary Kern 25 th Wedding Anniversary General Fund | \$25.00 |
| IN HONOR OF Richard & Roberta Lumsden 50 th Wedding Anniversary School Library | \$50.00 |
| IN HONOR OF Ottilie Ill on her 89 th Birthday General Fund | \$100.00 |
| IN HONOR OF Elsie Geyer Wallace on her 100 th Birthday Organ Fund | \$15.00 |
| IN THANKSGIVING for all the Loving Kindness extended to the tornado victims General Fund Building Fund | \$5,000.00 \$5,000.00 |
| IN MEMORY OF Ernest Smith Sound System | \$500.00 |
| IN MEMORY OF Harold Sheperd Choir Fund | \$10.00 |
| IN MEMORY OF Ron Younger School Registration Fee General Fund St. Paul School | \$25.00 \$20.00 \$10.00 |
| IN MEMORY OF Brenda Rynders Building Fund | \$20.00 |
| IN MEMORY OF Beatrice Blaylock General Fund | \$20.00 |
| IN MEMORY OF Don Peche To be designated by family Building Fund Church Service Tapes | \$75.00 \$60.00 \$10.00 |
| IN MEMORY OF Guiles Berry General Fund | \$20.00 |



Hymn of the Month



The Hymn of the Month for April is "Christ has Arisen, Alleluia," LSB #466. It is from the Easter section of the hymnal. The tune is Mfurahini Haleluya. The music for the hymn is Tanzanian in origin.

Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!



This lilting melody is enjoyable to sing and easy to learn. The hymn tells the story of Jesus' triumphal burst from the tomb of death into His reign as our King for all eternity in heaven. Scripture references include Matthew 28:5-7 and 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.

The Church choir introduced the hymn for the first time on Easter Sunday in the 8:30AM and 11AM services.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the space between verses three and four is there to make it easier to follow the lines of the hymn.

We, the Edler's, would like to thank you all for thinking and praying for Ron during his time in the hospital and when he was sent for his hyperbaric oxygen treatments. During the holidays, we had the Dorcas Christmas gifts, the Christmas carolers and also someone anonymous gave Ron a new manual wheelchair. Unbelievable, but thank God for our friends in Christ.

Ron and Lorine Edler

"Lasting Legacies"

Have you received an inheritance? If so, consider gifting part of the inheritance to the church, in memory of the loved one who remembered you. You can make this gift now or in your estate plan.

Bible Classes, Spiritual News and Lutheran Schools Week



9:45 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Studies

† **What is a Miracle?** – led by Mr. Kaiser in the library.

† **Life of Jesus According to the Gospel of Matthew** – led by Tim Bickel in the Projects Room.

† **The Proverbial Man** – led by Pastor Bruner in the Computer Room.

† **The Power of WE: God's Gift to Marriage** – led by Mr. Schoenknecht in the 5th grade classroom.

† **Home Bible Studies** – If you are interested in joining, please contact one of the Pastors or our church office.

† **Sunday School** meets from 9:45-10:45AM.

Friday Morning Bible Study

† **Parenting Bible Study: The Hurried Family** – This Bible study will meet on Friday mornings at 9AM in the library. Come join us for some fellowship as we learn more about taking care of the children God has blessed us with.

The Pastors **invite you to join** them in the **Chapel** ten minutes **before each worship** service to spend time in prayer. We pray for God to use the worship service to touch lives and for hearts to be focused rather than distracted during the service. We also pray for any specific requests individuals share at that time. We call this "Prayer Warriors."



Thank you from LYF

LYF would like to thank all who participated in the soup suppers and the Easter Breakfast. Thank you for your support, time & donations. It's all truly appreciated as we prepare to go to our Michigan District Youth Gathering.