

St. Paul Monthly Messenger

June 2008

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

Rev. James Bruner
989-871-4581

The June Messenger is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. James Kribs in celebration of their 37th wedding anniversary.

Dear Brothers and Sisters **in Christ**,

Main thought: **"Do the important things; not urgent things."**

Do you have too much on your "plate?" Is retirement busier than when you worked? Is your summer schedule already booked solid? Do you plan to relax, or will you be fitting graduations, sports camps, driver's training, weddings, etc. into the next three months while there is no school (unless you also plan for summer school or tutoring)?

Our **core values define the important things**, but that does not mean we will not be distracted by the urgent things. Every day we face the decision to let go of what is less important, in order to focus on what is most important. The ability to define and focus on the truly important things comes from God. "Faith for the Journey" has emphasized looking to God for this focus and direction. While on earth, Jesus faced many urgent things, but they were not the most important things. So how did He know what was important and how did He keep His focus on the important things. Keep reading.

Here is a summary of how we can discover what is important and not just urgent.

Spend time with God in a quiet place. (see Mark 1:35; 6:31)

"Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:15-16

Live your life in order to **bring glory to Christ** not just to please yourself or others.

"Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say I am...Who do you say I am?' ...And Jesus said, 'The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.' Then he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me...What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?'" Luke 9:18-25.

Do what God has gifted you to do.

Jesus knew what was important and why He was here. Jesus also wanted his disciples to recognize what was important and why they were here. Peter put it this way, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 4:10-11

Prayer: Lord Jesus, take me often to a quiet place and show me what is valuable (Your core values). Grant me the wisdom to choose what is important and not just urgent. I want to bring praise to Your name, because You have proven that I was important to You. Amen.

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

Rev. James R. Bruner

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
4941 W. Center St.
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Here are some tools or ideas for standing up with BOLDNESS as a Christian in this technological world.

- Going to a movie? Check to see if there will be inappropriate behavior, language, violence or other things in the movie to which Jesus would not want us to be exposed. Use www.Screenit.com before you see the movie. Get free reviews by clicking the "No Thanks" box at the bottom of the home page. This sight rates various categories of offensive material (ex. drugs, sex, smoking, language)
- Want a safe website for your children? Lutheran Hour Ministries has a website that has many great resources and interactive activities for the entire family. Go to www.JCPlayZone.com
- Do you use search engines on the web to find out information? Use the search engine on website www.goodsearch.com and you can designate a charity to receive a donation for every legitimate search you do. For instance, you can designate the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League as your charity and they will continue to add to their mite boxes through this donation system.
- Check out our church website at www.stpaul-millington.org and read the messenger if you lose this hard copy, listen to sermons online, keep informed about our activities and have helpful links to other Christian sites. Tell your family and friends about this site. It is great for college students, military personnel and others who presently live out of the area.

Do you have any helpful ideas or tools for living as a Christian? Let Pastor Bruner or the office know. It does not have to be internet related. Look for more ideas next month.

Calendar of Events

Special Voters' Meeting Wed., June 4th at 7:30PM
(Date changed - instead of May 27th) We will have the contractors' bids for the Activity Center and the amount pledged from the "Faith for the Journey" campaign. We will be able to choose the contractor and determine a starting date for construction. Any member 18 years or older is encouraged to attend and become a voter. This will be in place of the Council Meeting.

St. Paul Garage Sale June 12th - 14th

We have limited storage space, so please save your items to be dropped off beginning June 6th in the Parish Hall.



Messenger/Calendar Deadline June 18th.

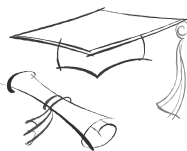
Next Dorcas meeting Wed., June 18th at 7:00PM.
Collections for the Dorcas Health Kits has begun again. Items needed include two-gallon size zip lock bags, washcloths, wrapped bar soap, combs, emery boards, deodorant, and shampoo. Please place these items in the narthex in the box marked health kits.

Yearbook pictures are needed from the '07-'08 school year. If you have any from sporting events, field trips, confirmation, graduation, candid shots etc., please bring them to the office. Thank you for your help.



This year's Heritage Picnic will be scheduled at a later date, towards the end of summer. Watch the bulletin and Messenger for further details.

8th Grade Graduation - June 8th in the 8:30AM service. **High school graduates** are invited and encouraged to wear their gowns and join the procession on that day.



Happy Retirement

Our beloved secretary Geri Blue will be retiring on June 30th. We will celebrate her retirement on June 22nd in the Parish Hall after 2nd service. To celebrate this event we are asking for pictures and notes of thanks and encouragement to put into a scrapbook. Coin envelopes will be put in your church mailbox if you'd like to give a monetary donation. Please turn monetary donations, notes & pictures into the church office by Fri., June 6th.



Mark your calendar:
 Farewell party for
 Tim & Julia Bickel
 Sunday, July 13, 2008

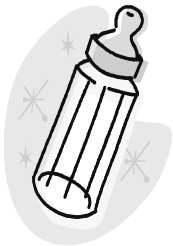


**Voters' Assembly Meeting
 June 11th at 7:30PM
 In the Sanctuary
 to go over next year's budget**

Baby Bottle Campaign

will be ending of Father's Day,
 Sunday, June 15th.

Help us out by picking up a baby bottle from the narthex and filling it with any loose change during this period. The money earned will help the Pregnancy Resource Center of Lapeer. Last year's campaign of 53 participating churches and donors netted more than \$35,000.00.



Women's Softball Practice Schedule

All practices will be approximately 6:30-8PM
 (weather permitting.)

- Wed., June 4th
- Thurs., June 5th
- Wed., June 11th
- Thurs., June 12th
- Tues., June 17th
- Wed., June 18th
- Tues., June 24th
- Wed., June 25th



The tournament is the weekend of July 17th-20th. Team tournament fee is \$75.00. Those planning to play in the tournament need to be faithful in practice attendance. If questions, call Andrea Weiss 871-3092 or Teresa Walter 871-9366.

Men's Softball Schedule

- Mon., June 2nd Home
- Mon., June 9th Home
- Mon., June 16th Home
- Mon., June 23rd Away—St. Mark, Flint
- Mon., June 30th Home



Opportunities to Serve And Volunteer



Altar Flowers Needed:

June 29th
August 17th, 31st
October 19th, 26th

LOST & FOUND

Please check the **lost and found** by the janitor's room and the shelf outside of the Parish Hall. We are getting quite a collection of clothes, dishes, etc.

Gus Macker

All youth in 9th—12th grade are invited to attend the **Ludington Servant Event June 27th-29th**. This is a great opportunity for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Permission slips outside of Pastors offices. Please contact Pastor Bruner for details or if interested.



The Board of Social Concerns would like to once again gather **volunteers** to **help** out at **area soup kitchens**. If this is something you feel God is calling you to help with, please sign the sheet in the narthex. We have no dates set yet – we are just seeing if there are enough servants willing and interested in helping feed God's children.

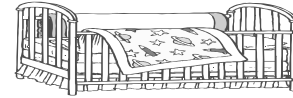
VBS Help Needed:

VBS is in need of teachers & helpers, so far we only have one teacher. VBS is 9:00AM-11:30AM from June 23rd – June 27th. If you would like to help call Angie Zeck at 795-9129



Check out our new Web pages. The site gets updated monthly with the church calendar, the Monthly Messenger and a new sermon page has also been added.

If you missed the **"Faith for the Journey" video** you can view it on our website www.stpaul-millington.org.



"What's that Crib for Anyway?" Our crib is in the narthex waiting to be filled! The Board of Social Concerns has a young woman from our community who has lovingly chosen life for her unborn baby rather than abortion. Our pro-life mission is to keep her uplifted in prayer and let her know that we love her as Christ also loves us. Her baby BOY will be arriving in June, so let's try and fill the crib by Sun., June 1st! If you wish to make a monetary donation rather than a gift from the list, simply place your gift in an envelope marked "crib" and place it in the offering plate. Please prayerfully consider this need. Betty DeOrnellas 871-4444.

TUTORING AVAILABLE:

A **summer tutoring** program will be available through St. Paul Lutheran School during the summer months. Contact the School Office at 871-4581 for details and a detailed informational hand-out.

HELPING HANDS DIRECTORY:

Do you have a business, side job or hobby? If you would like to share that with the congregation, we will be putting this directory together to help members find others in the congregation with the same interest and who can provide different services. **Deadline is Mon., June 16th**. Forms are available in the church office or narthex. You can drop off your business card or email us at stpaul@tds.net. Subject-Helping hands directory.



OLD FASHIONED FESTIVAL NEWS:

Would you like to organize our float for the parade this year? This year's theme is "Old-Fashioned Christmas." The parade is on Friday, August 8th at 6PM. If you can help with this project call the church office. Registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 1st.

Did you know you can have your **church tithes and offerings automatically deducted** from your bank account? No more check writing or forgetting your weekly envelope. It's called **"Simply Giving"** and you can sign up in the church office. If you would like to take part in this or have any questions, call 871-4581.

GIFT IDEAS

Concordia Self Study Bibles are available for purchase at the church office. Cost: \$35.00/no tabs and \$45.00/with tabs.

Gift Certificates (Scrip) to a wide variety of stores and restaurants are available to purchase at the school office.

Kroger Cares Program - Earn money for our school if you shop at Kroger! We have \$5 gift cards available in the school office. When the card is used up, recharge from the service desk.

Beginning Deficit 4/1/08		(28,115.74)
April General Fund Income	81,027.00	
April General Fund Expenses	<u>104,131.38</u>	
April Balance		<u>(23,104.38)</u>
Ending Deficit 4/30/08		<u>(51,220.12)</u>
Missions (Budgeted & Non-Budgeted)	2,604.65	
T.I.M.	1,045.25	
Building Fund	1,548.50	

Bible Classes and Spiritual News

June 2008 MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

IN HONOR OF Roy Petzold on his Birthday Debt Retirement	\$70.00
IN HONOR OF Raymond & Marion Reinert 55 th Wedding Anniversary General Fund	\$100.00
IN HONOR OF Otilie Ill on Mothers Day General Fund	\$25.00
IN HONOR OF Harry Kern on his 80 th Birthday Building Fund	\$490.00
IN MEMORY OF Donald Peche To be designated by family	\$10.00
IN MEMORY OF Joseph Newbold, Sr. Building Fund	\$20.00
Stephens Ministry	\$20.00

Hymn of the Month



The Hymn of the Month for May and June is "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way." It is LSB #857 in the Vocation section of the hymnal.

Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.



The tune is St. Flavian, a familiar melody to most Lutheran congregations.

The scripture reference is Mark 10:35-45. In this text, Jesus reminds His disciples that "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." This is the basis for the earthly ministry of Jesus as He exemplified a life of servanthood.

The hymn reminds us to bend low, forget ourselves, serve the needs of others, and seek to follow Him.

Thank You

Thank you!!!!

There are so many people that have been working so hard on our Faith For the Journey campaign. I am so grateful to God for the people of St. Paul Lutheran. Over and over again when a task looks too large for us, there are willing and dedicated servants who roll up their sleeves and get right down to the work. We are not finished with our journey but the beginning of our campaign has begun with many tasks completed. I wish to thank all who have helped serve on the Leadership Team. I also am grateful for the many members who said, "Yes, I will help" when asked by our Leadership Team to work on one of the many tasks. God has been working through us in so many ways. I believe we will see more than an Activity Center built as a result of this campaign. I already see the desire to be more intentional in sharing Jesus Christ with our community and world being built up within our congregation. I see relationships being built up. There is a spiritual awakening to the study of God's Word and the need to pray for guidance. All of this is exciting, and I praise God for what He has done and will continue to do.

In the name of and for the glory of Jesus Christ,
Pastor Bruner

June 2008 Weekend Worship

- June 1st "I Desire Mercy" Hosea 5:15—6:6
 - June 8th "The Challenge of Deception" Colossians 2:8 (I)
 - June 15th "In the Public Eye" Matthew 10:24-33
 - June 22nd "The Challenge of Culture" Romans 12:1-2 (II)
 - June 29th "The Challenge of the Future" Matthew 6:13b (III)
- Thank you for the time we have shared in worship. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you with His best this month, and forever!
Timothy J. Bickel



9:45 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Studies

- † **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.
- † **Home Bible Studies** – If you are interested in joining, please contact one of the Pastors or our church office.
- † **LYF DVD series** from the Skit Guys – Led by Angie Zeck in the Youth Room.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



"Train up a child in the way which
he should go and when he is old he
will not depart from it"
Proverbs 22:6