

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4941 W. Center St.
Millington, MI 48746
www.stpaul-millington.org
989-871-4581
E-mail: church.office@spmill.org

Rev. James Bruner
Rev. Kirk Abatelli

St. Paul Monthly Messenger

January 2014

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



A Message from Pastor Abatelli

The message of Epiphany is where God reveals His great love to all people. When the Magi, who were Gentiles, came to worship Jesus it showed all people have access to God because God has intervened to save all.

Can you imagine the travel the Magi had to make? It had to be some distance, because it took time to get there and it says they came "from far away." God intervened with a star which was a sign to them that a King was born. Following this star God gave, they left to find this King, one can only imagine what conversations they had, "Are we sure the star knows where it's going?" One asks, "Did you bring the gifts?" Another's reply, "For the last time, yes."

The star led them to Bethlehem - not to the palace in Jerusalem. They probably thought the star made a mistake, for a King needs to be in a palace. So they veered from Bethlehem to Jerusalem only to find out that they went to the wrong place.

After telling Herod the news, he tried to hide being upset and his intentions. So, calling the experts of Scripture they asked where the child was. Even though Herod's intent was malicious, God used this situation to intervene and give the Magi the right place. The experts pointed saying, "In Bethlehem in Judea."

The Magi struggled to believe these words; to be led to such an inappropriate setting for a Royal birth. But again God intervened to give them comfort and strength with that star that led them from the beginning.

Then the star stopped over the place where the child was. They were overwhelmed to see the star and went to the door. After they were let in they saw the child with His mother, Mary. Mary said, "This is Jesus." Their doubts and hesitation in their hearts were turned to joy and assurance when they saw that Child. Immediately they fell down and worshiped him.

Can you imagine the thoughts in the Magi's minds? "This is it! This is the King! Where are the gifts?" They opened their gifts offering gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What confusion for Mary and Joseph to see this done and what was given. These gifts were fit for a King and that was just what Christ was. Seeing this King and realizing that God has intervened for all mankind.

*The January Messenger is
sponsored in honor of Amy Yorke
earning her PhD, given
by her family.*

As the Magi rested, God intervened again in a dream to warn them not to go back to Herod. We don't know what the warning was, but we know the results. I can't help but picture the conversation after the dream. "That was a weird dream." Another says, "You had to see one?" Another states, "Forget Herod, let's leave for our country by another road."

God intervened in their lives ultimately by that Child. It is in that Christ Child He has intervened to save us. That Child grew to live, die and rise for us so that we could be lavished with His love and grace. We are forgiven people changed by God's intervention in that Child to live for him. God has also intervened to give us His Spirit to live for Him.

What happened to the Magi after seeing God intervene? God's Word does not tell us. But we can know that this encounter had to have a deep impact in their lives. How about us? After we have heard all of what God has done to intervene in our lives to save us from Christ's birth, death, and resurrection does it impact us? Does knowing Christ came and died and rose do anything? YES! We are forgiven and strengthened because God has intervened to save us, when we could not save ourselves.

*Arise! Shine! Your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has dawned.
Darkness now covers the earth,
and thick darkness covers the nations.
But the LORD dawns,
and his glory appears over you.
Isaiah 60:1-2*

Christ has appeared and His glory and saving love is over us. We hold onto this truth and rejoice in it for our hearts are thrilled with His joy. The joy of Christ, so we then will bring Him gifts of our hearts whether gold, incense, singing, praises, and the very thing He came to save... ourselves.

In Christ,
Pastor Abatelli

Spiritual News

Adult Bible Studies **9:45AM Sunday Morning**

Lutheran Spirituality – "Vocation" – Led by Pastor Bruner in the Library.

Lutheranism 101 - Holy Baptism - Led by David Kaiser in the Computer Lab Saturday evenings and Sundays beginning Jan. 26th.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Daily Lectionary Bible Study - Led by Pastor Bruner on Wednesday mornings in the Council Room.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

HEY YOU GUYS!!! All the men of St. Paul (bring your friends too!) are invited to study God's Word on Sat., Jan. 4th at 7:30AM in the school library with your fellow brothers in Christ. We are focusing on Heroes of the Faith. We have a casual, laid back atmosphere as we explore God's Word and enjoy doughnuts, milk, and coffee.

We are studying Elisha so please read through the following chapters: II Kings 2, 4, 5, 13; Luke 17; and John 6. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, we will understand that God equips those He calls into His service. We will affirm that God desires all people to be saved through a relationship with His Son. We will learn how Elisha proclaimed God's power to save through a series of miracles relating directly to Jesus' ministry. Finally, we will gladly share Elisha's proclamation that Christ is our Redeemer!

For the Feb. 1st class, as a refresher to the ministry of the archangel Gabriel, please read through Daniel, chapter 9, and Luke, chapter 1, prior to our class. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, we will rejoice that Gabriel proclaimed God's salvation in both the Old and New Testaments. We will learn how Gabriel's words anticipate the completion of God's plan of salvation and later proclaim its coming. Finally, we will gladly tell others the Good News.

New Bible Study Beginning in February

Daring to Walk as Christ's Disciples

I contribute to the health and wellbeing of the church (others)? What does it mean to be a disciple? How do I grow spiritually? What does being a member of St. Paul mean? How am I a partner in the Gospel? What is my personal Mission in serving and giving to God and others? How do my spiritual gifts play a part in God's Mission? What part does worship play? Why should I give?

Answer these questions and more; and find out how we can be a blessing to all because that is why God created us, through sharing, giving, serving, and loving Christ.

Beginning Feb. 2nd between services.

January Scripture Readings

January 5th

I Kings 3:4-15

Ephesians 1:3-14

Luke 2:40-52

January 12th

Isaiah 42:1-9

Romans 6:1-11

Matthew 3:13-17

January 19th

Isaiah 49:1-7

I Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42a

January 26th

Isaiah 9:1-4

I Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-25

Musical Opportunities

Handbells

Mondays at 7PM

Church Band

Mondays at 5PM



Worship Team

Wednesdays at 6PM

Choir

Wednesdays at 6:53PM

Praise Team

Thursdays at 6:15PM

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club - All students are welcome to enjoy breakfast and a devotion every Friday at 7AM in the Home Ec. Room at the Millington High School. **St. Paul is hosting breakfast on January 31st.** Donations help make this ministry possible. Items needed: eggs, shredded cheese, ground sausage, chocolate milk, orange juice, or monetary gifts. Please call the church office or Laura Gleim if you can donate items, or help in any way.



Calendar of Events

Free Indeed

Free Indeed at St. Paul every Monday from 7-9PM. Free Indeed is designed to help those struggling with life's hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through a recovery process. This program is similar to Celebrate Recovery. We will have devotions, praise and fellowship time, and men and women groups of confidential sharing to support one another in our times of difficulty. Open to everyone, and FREE child care provided. If questions, call Jan McKee [989-475-2091](tel:989-475-2091) or Kenny McKee 810-577-2325.

Public School Confirmation Classes

Mondays at 7PM in the Library

Zumba

Tuesdays at 6:15PM in the Pariah Hall. \$2.00 per class.

AA Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings every Tuesday from 7:30 -8:30PM in the Council Room. For more information contact Gary 989-710-6637.

Quilting

Tuesdays from 12-3PM in the Parish Hall
Please continue to donate new or used items such as: sheets, light weight blankets, jeans, material, thread, etc. Please consider coming in and helping. No experience is necessary!! We cut squares, put together World Relief quilts, and tie off quilts on the rack. We also have squares to be sewn and material to be cut at home. If questions, please call Lori Osborn 989-205-9873.

Storyhour

Thursdays or Fridays from 9-11AM in the Youth Room. Each week the children enjoy Bible stories, activities and a snack. To join, come to the youth room on Thurs. or Fri. morning, or call Lori Osborn 989-205-9873.

Scrapbooking

Sat., Jan. 11th from 9AM-7PM in the Parish Hall.

Pre register \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 at the door. Great Food! Great Fun! Make New Friends!....and Prizes too! Bring your own scrapbook supplies, a dish to pass and beverages if you want other than coffee or H2O. Representatives from Stampin' Up, Creative Memories, and Scrapbooker's Hideaway will be set up with supplies, lessons, "how-to's", ideas and items to purchase.

R.S.V.P. in the school office or with Susan Jensen 871-4866 or at jenco33@yahoo.com.

SCRAPBOOKING MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME....JESUS MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER!

Crafting

Sat., Jan. 11th from 9AM-7PM. Crafters, please plan to join the fun on the 2nd Saturday of each month to make crafts for the Dorcas Bazaar. We will share the Parish Hall with the scrapbookers. You are welcome to come any time throughout the day. Please bring a dish to pass and stay for 1 or 2 hours or stay for the day.

New Member Welcome

Sun., Jan. 12th at 9:45AM in the Parish Hall.
Please join us in welcoming our newest members.

Messenger/Calendar Deadline
Friday, January 17th

Dorcas Tea Party

Sun., Jan. 19th. You are invited to the Parish Hall between services from 9:45-10:45AM. Bring your favorite tea cup and enjoy some goodies, tea or coffee, and great fellowship. We will share a short devotion, and hear about plans for the upcoming year in Dorcas. Invite a friend, young or old, everyone is welcome. If questions, please call Lori Osborn 989-205-9873.

The Color of Rain Event

Mark your calendars - St. Paul will be hosting a free "The Color of Rain" event Sun., January 19th.

Invite your family and friends to hear Michael & Gina Spehn's inspirational story. Books will be available. See the enclosed insert for details.

Refreshments will be served. **If you would like to make cookies, bars, or some other great goodie,** please call the church office.

St. Paul Annual Fish Fry

Sun., Jan. 26th from 11AM-2PM

Takeout available starting at 10AM

Menu: fried and baked fish (fall festival recipe),
baked potato, mac 'n cheese, vegetables, dessert,
and beverage

Cost: Adults: \$10, Children (5-12): \$5, Preschool: free,
Takeout: \$9.

Desserts are needed. If you can help please call Trisha Ferrier 989-213-1634 or Rachel Higgins 989-980-9828. New this year - **Presale tickets will be available.** You will save \$1 off any fish dinner price, including takeout, when you buy presale. Tickets will be available a few weeks prior to the fish fry after all church services or by contacting Jake Petzold [989-327-5532](tel:989-327-5532).

Lutherans for Life / Lutheran Hour

(Continued from last month - By Jean Garton
Date: February 8, 2008 – L.F.L.

Incest involves a complex family situation that will not be cured or stopped by abortion. Abortion promises silence and makes it possible for the incest to continue. The more effective response to pregnancies resulting from incest is to deal with the environment in which the girl is being victimized. Aborting the girl's baby and then returning her to the family situation that caused the problem in the first place is no solution.

Years after incest has stopped, victimized women report lingering pain and scars, but many cling to the promise in Psalm 147:3 that God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Victims of rape and incest often struggle for a long time with self-esteem, but many claim that what has helped them with the sense of degradation is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"He loves me just the way I am," said one victim. "I don't have to be perfect or have to earn His love!" said another. "I am absolutely complete in Christ," wrote a third.

When Love Begins: If the value of human life is to have any meaning, then its value cannot depend on, or be diminished by, the circumstances that brought about that new human life. God maps out the tapestry of life for each child, whether a child is the product of love and marriage or the product of rape and incest. It is not a question of when life begins. It is a question of when love begins, and God's love for each child begins in His mind and heart before they were even conceived.

Note: A good resource on the issue of rape and incest is Victims and Victors. (David C. Reardon, Julie Makimaa, Amy Sobie editors. (Acorn Books, Springfield, IL; available from the Elliot Institute: www.afterabortion.org) In this book, those who have experienced sexual assault speak out about their pregnancies, abortions, and children. Some quotes from the book that may be helpful to you or someone you know:

"I, having lived through rape, and also having raised a child 'conceived in rape,' feel personally assaulted and insulted every time I hear that abortion should be legal because of rape and incest. I feel that we're being used to further the abortion issue, even though we've not been asked to tell our side of the story."

"After my daughter was born, it was love at first sight ...I know I made the right decision in having her."

"Often I cry. Cry because I could not stop the attacks. Cry because my daughter is dead. And I cry because it still hurts."

(Continued)

"They say abortion is the easy way out, the best thing for everyone, but they are wrong. It has been over 15 years, and I still suffer."

"Abortion does not help or solve a problem—it only compounds and creates another trauma for the already grieving victim by taking away the one thing that can bring joy."

"The effects of the abortion are much more far-reaching than the effects of the rape in my life."

"I thank God for the strength He gave me to go through the bad times and for all of the joy in the good times. I will never regret that I chose to give life to my daughter."

Abortion is forever – get the facts first

Resource Centers: www.rtl.org www.lifenews.com -
[www.prghelp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prghelp@sbcglobal.net) -
www.fentonrighttolife.org www.lutheransforlife.org



The
Lutheran Hour

Lutheran Ministries **"Worship for Shut-Ins"**

January 5th

"Living with the Light" - Matthew 2:1-12

January 12th

"God's Continuing Gifts" - Matthew 3:17

January 19th

"Behold, the Lamb of God" - John 1:29-42a

January 26th

"Heeding His Call" - Matthew 4:12-22

Broadcast Guide

Sundays at 7:30AM WMPC 1230 AM

Sundays at 8:30AM WSAM 1400 AM

Sundays at 10AM KAWZ 89.3 FM

Sundays at 12PM WRDT 560 AM

For a complete listing, go to lhm.org, click on "Our Ministries" and click on "Lutheran Hour."

If anyone would like to support "The Lutheran Hour" mission outreach program, please mail your payments to: Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour, PO Box 133, Frankenmuth, MI 48734.



January Birthdays in our St. Paul Family



Daniel, David	1/1	Mulka, Donna	1/10	Lyons, Susan	1/19	Brueggemann Sr., James	1/26
Haley, Charles	1/1	Rosebush, William	1/10	Mason, Ciara	1/19	Esparza, Airiel	1/26
Reinertson, Mark	1/1	Selich, Lukas	1/10	Reinert, Gailan	1/19	Schultz, Wilfred	1/26
Saeger, Marie	1/1	Steepe, Kody	1/10	Wager, Theodore	1/19	White, Joshua	1/26
Skouson, Kirsten	1/1	Jensen Jr., Marcus H.	1/11	White, Ronald	1/19	Kern, David	1/27
Bishop, Adrian	1/2	St. Onge, Cheyanne	1/11	Woelzlein, Gary	1/19	Petzold, Paul	1/27
Hibbard, Tyler	1/2	Wittum, Benjamin	1/11	Balcom, Connie	1/20	Watts, Brynlee	1/27
Raymond, Mark	1/2	Coon, Shelley	1/12	Carlyon, Montgomery	1/20	Coleman, Lon	1/28
Rueckert, Kaiden	1/2	Erickson, Philip	1/12	Cassidy, Joy	1/20	Dumler, Karen	1/28
Rueger, Dawn	1/2	Gross, Richard	1/12	Glady, Richard	1/20	Schreiber, Dorothy	1/28
Schuler, Joshua	1/2	Holmes, Shelly	1/12	Heike, Shayla	1/20	Snover, Martin	1/28
Beagle, Cathy	1/3	Keinath, Roger	1/12	Meeks, Thomas	1/20	Griesing, Dustin	1/29
Bentley, Tyler	1/3	Mills, Zachary	1/12	O'Hearn, Heather	1/20	Hunt, Brittany	1/29
Bloor, Cathleen	1/3	Reinert, Wyatt	1/12	Schember, Dana	1/20	Petzold, Joel	1/29
Kammer, Carol	1/3	Schultz, Lana	1/12	Snyder, Kylie	1/20	Ramsey, Stacie	1/29
Kester, Gailan	1/3	Sherman, Russell	1/12	Wagner, Anthony	1/20	Thomason, Kyrian	1/29
Nitz, Debra	1/3	Wyman, Shannon	1/12	Woolwine, Heidi	1/20	White, Michael	1/29
Stratton, Marlene	1/3	Daenzer, Timothy	1/13	Brown, Abigail	1/21	Borcherding, Lynn	1/30
Cobb, Shelly	1/4	List, Todd	1/13	DeOrnellas, Daniel	1/21	Horning, Ricky	1/30
Higgins, Lela	1/4	Morel, Toni	1/13	Huber, Shannon	1/21	Reinertson, Ellen	1/30
Keinath, Alexander	1/4	Muehlenbeck, Jillian	1/14	Maxson, Diane	1/21	Torrey, Chelsea	1/30
Schiefer, Janice	1/4	Whaley, Kevin	1/14	Smith, Christopher	1/21	Warner, Judith	1/30
Wood, James	1/4	Eberlein, Martha	1/15	Washburn, Christopher	1/21	Weiss, Julie	1/30
Frasier, Keith	1/5	Keinath, Gerald	1/15	Gunter, Nicholas	1/22	Ziegler, Michael	1/30
Rose, Dwayne	1/5	Kennard, Steven	1/15	Hunt, Paul	1/22	Balcom, Gary	1/31
Schwab, Carol	1/5	Sergeant, Gabrielle	1/15	Morrow, Philip	1/22	Petzold, Emily	1/31
Selich, Andrew	1/5	Brown, Grace	1/16	Petzold, Luke	1/22	Schiefer, Sheryl	1/31
Coleman, Elizabeth	1/6	Draper, Alan	1/16	Brown II, Keith	1/23	Washburn, Keven	1/31
Erlenbeck, Sheri	1/6	Engelhart, David	1/16	Corrigan, Nicholas	1/23		
Mason, Cody	1/6	Jaruzel, Nicole	1/16	Derscha, Michael	1/23		
Petzold, Willard	1/6	McClenathen, Robert	1/16	Gorsuch, Kenneth	1/23		
Rohde, Linda	1/6	Reinert, Kenneth	1/16	Hunt, Cory	1/23		
Sherman, Michael	1/6	Wagner, LeeAnn	1/16	Koch, Kyle	1/23		
Ziegler, Eugene	1/6	Bishop, Dustin	1/17	Rader, Leah	1/23		
Cunningham, Kenneth	1/7	Bishop, Samantha	1/17	Reed, Jodie	1/23		
Earl, William	1/7	Bishop, Sydney	1/17	Schiefer, Aaron	1/23		
Hergenreder, Kathleen	1/7	Cassidy, Nicholas	1/17	Hayden, Patrick	1/24		
Wiacek, Chase	1/7	Garrett, Bill	1/17	Henderson, RaeAnn	1/24		
Erlenbeck, Blake	1/8	Keinath, Seth	1/17	McClenathen, Boyden	1/24		
Kester, Lonnie	1/8	Daenzer, Constance	1/18	Milostan, Kandace	1/24		
White, Tina	1/8	Damm, Evan	1/18	Schmidt, Adam	1/24		
Aulbert, Lisa	1/9	Damm, Jason	1/18	Staple, Aaron	1/24		
Gordon, Phillip	1/9	Keinath, Terri	1/18	Derscha, Courtney	1/25		
Keinath, Brenda	1/9	Maschke, Andrew	1/18	Inman, Amber	1/25		
Kowitz, John	1/9	Petzold, Nancy	1/18	Petzold, Loraine H.	1/25		
Reinert, Bethany	1/9	Schiefer, Michael	1/18	Petzold, Ron	1/25		
Schoenknecht, Penny	1/9	Smith, Jeanette	1/18	Stange, Donna	1/25		
Wyman, Mark	1/9	Stange, Don	1/18	Trinklein, Fred	1/25		
Baker, Jerri	1/10	Harpst, Richard	1/19	Whittaker, George	1/25		
Burns, Sarah	1/10	Licavoli, Addyson	1/19	Wisembach, Ashley	1/25		

Best Wishes



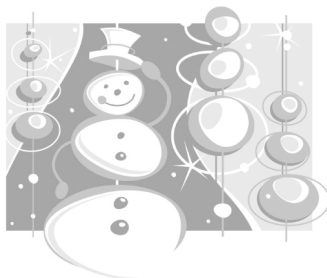
*God's Richest Blessings
on Your Birthday!*

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

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Millington, MI
Permit No. 6

January
2014



The color of springtime
is in the flowers;
the color of winter
is in the imagination.

~Terri Guillemets

Financial Report

Financial Report for Congregation – General Church Account

Carryover Deficit as of 9/30/13	(83,036.05)
October General Fund Income	72,041.08
General Fund Expenses	<u>(111,935.93)</u>
+ / - for Month of October	<u>(39,894.85)</u>
Ongoing Deficit to Date – includes Line of Credit Balance Due	<u>(122,930.90)</u>
**Line of Credit <i>Principal</i> Balance Due as of 10/31/13	25,817.71
Building Fund (Direct givings, Memorials, etc.)	13,024.94
Missions (District, Non-District, Memorials)	1,282.39
T.I.M. (Direct givings plus mission %)	806.52
VLHS (Direct givings plus mission %)	230.44
Energy Efficiency Fund Balance	\$13,974.67

As reported above, the deficit climbed in October as a result of giving being much lower than our expenses. The General Fund also covered a bill that has since been reimbursed from a designated Memorial. The good news is that offering envelope giving in November was much better, along with the Seeds of Thanksgiving emphasis. By the bountiful goodness of our God, we were able to make up ground.

Financial Report for Congregation – General Church Account

Carryover Deficit as of 10/31/13	(122,930.90)
General Fund Income - November	97,212.27
General Fund Income – Seeds of Thanksgiving	54,035.00
General Fund Expenses - November	<u>(98,939.67)</u>
+ / - for Month of November	52,307.60
Ongoing Deficit to Date	<u>(44,805.59)</u>
**Line of Credit <i>Principal</i> Balance Due as of 11/30/13	PAID OFF!!
Building Fund (Direct givings, Memorials, etc.)	11,058.50
Missions (District, Non-District, Memorials)	1,425.96
T.I.M. (Direct givings plus mission %)	853.34
VLHS (Direct givings plus mission %)	243.81
Energy Efficiency Fund Balance	\$13,974.67

We thank God for continuing to provide for the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran. The report above shows members gave generously to the General Fund last month, from the blessings He has poured out. However, the Building Fund still remains a concern. Nine out of the last twelve months receipts for this fund have not met the monthly payment of \$14,135.00. This means that we have drawn from the cushion reserved for the Building Fund. When this cushion is depleted, the General Fund will need to cover the gap between actual receipts and the monthly payment. Further explanation can be provided at the voter's assembly today.

January Meetings

Board of Education

Tues., Jan. 7th at 6PM

Council

Wed., Jan. 8th at 7:30PM

Stephen Ministry

Mon., Jan. 13th & 27th at 7PM

Trustees

Sun., Jan. 19th at 7PM

2014 Flower Chart

Please check the **new Flower Chart**, hanging in the church hallway between the mailboxes, for available dates. When signing up for altar flowers, please add your name, phone number and if you would like center or side vases. Thank you.



2014 Messenger Sponsors

Messenger Sponsors are needed for 2014. The cost is \$120.00 per month which covers the postage. Please call the church office to reserve a month.

Memorials / Misc.

Scrip

We have many cards on hand in the school office or they are available through shopwithscrip.com. Something new this year - Fifty percent of the scrip discount can be returned to school families as a credit on their next year's school expenses. The other fifty percent goes to St. Paul to pay for the expenses of the program and to the St. Paul School General Fund. To designate where you want your credit to go, please fill out a form from the school office.

Washington D.C. Trip

How would you like to go on a vacation without doing any of the legwork and planning? You can! We will be taking two busses for next year's 8th grade class trip to **Washington D.C.** and we have plenty of seats available that need to be filled. Everything is done for you. All you have to do is let the school office know you're interested and we can set up a payment plan beginning in January. The dates are September 22-26, 2014. If interested or have questions, please call the school office.



Church Offering Envelopes

If you haven't picked up your offering envelopes for 2014, they will be in your church mailbox. If you have trouble finding them, please call the church office.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports are needed from all boards. Email to stacey.force@spmill.org or bring to the church office by Fri., Jan. 17th. Thank you.

St. Paul Website

Remember to check out our St. Paul website www.stpaul-millington.org for church and school information. There are also many links available for additional information and resources.

Prayer Requests

Your **prayer requests** and needs are important to you and us. During the week, you can call the office to share your request. If you have a need over the week-end, the most efficient method will be to speak to the Sexton or Elder on duty before the worship service. He will relay the information to the pastor(s). In an emergency Pastor Bruner's cell phone is (989-233-1994).



JANUARY 2014 MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF Carol Bannerman	
General Fund	\$40.00
To Be Designated by family	\$10.00
IN MEMORY OF Art Weiss	
General Fund	\$20.00
IN MEMORY OF Alma Jean Lagness	
General Fund	\$20.00
IN MEMORY OF Perry Green	
General Fund	\$10.00
IN MEMORY OF Carol Erbish	
General Fund	\$10.00
IN MEMORY OF Isabella Petz	
St. Paul School	\$20.00
To Be Designated by family	\$20.00
Giving Tree	\$35.00
IN MEMORY OF Marian Keinath & Diane Kroska	
General Fund	\$500.00
IN MEMORY OF Ernest Smith	
Building Fund	\$1000.00
IN HONOR OF Irene Smith's 80 th birthday	
Building Fund	\$1000.00
IN THANKSGIVING FOR St. Paul's Musical	
Talent and Mentors	
Send Out Cards	\$50.00

Area News

Autism Support Group Thurs., Jan. 9th from 6:30-8PM at the Millington United Methodist Church. Call Kara at 989-615-6218 if questions or if you need childcare.

All You Can Eat Cod Fri., Jan. 10th from 11AM-2PM and 4-7PM at St. Martin Lutheran Church.

Wellspring Lutheran Services Hospice will be providing a training session for new volunteers beginning January 21st. Sessions are Tuesday and Thursday from 10AM-12PM for four weeks. For more information, contact Sheila at 989-652-4663.

CrossRoads Christian Counseling Ministries, Frank-enmuth has professional counselors on staff; a Good Samaritan Support Program to assist clients who are unable to pay the full counseling fee; and an anonymous Prayer Partner program providing prayers for the client and counselor. More info can be found at www.crcounseling.org.

Valley Lutheran 3rd Sunday Open House from 2-3PM January through May. Come in and receive a personal tour of the facilities.



January Schedule



Acolytes

January			
7	7:30PM		Mason Lugg
8	8:30AM		Joshua Allen & Justin
8	11AM		Kelsey Gronowski & Ray Peche
11	7:30PM		Ethan Hoard & Evan
12	8:30AM		Tyler Bentley & Brian
12	11AM		Abby Brown & Tim
18	7:30PM		Kaitlyn Ill & Jeff
19	8:30AM		Timmy David
19	11AM		Bradyn Henderson & Jim
25	7:30PM		Seth Mittler & Jason Ketels
26	8:30AM		Katherine Weber & Duane
26	11AM		Kelsey Gronowski & Ray Peche

Greeters

First Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Shirley Petzold, Ken & Kathy Ill Les & Diane Maxson, Ron & Olga Nims
Second Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	LuAnn Licavoli, Wayne & Luanne Jaruzel
Third Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Natalie Smith Rosie Horning, Dale & Pam Hanlin
Fourth Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Jim Bickel Anna Tuttle
Fifth Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Donna Torrey Steve & Nila Schmandt
Second Saturday	7:30PM	Bill Bleuer & Betty Bleuer
Third Saturday	7:30PM	Laura Sherman
Greeter Subs – Denise Miller (871-2675), Sherry Sebert (871-3084)		



Ushers

8:30AM

Captain	Glenn Brown	Ron Schiefer
Assistant	Vic Reinert	Matt Singer
	John Hergenreder	Bob Wager
	Mike Kern	Bill Weber
	Nate Kern	Duane Weber
	Tim Kern	Ed White
	Brian Meier	

11AM

Captain	Mark Rude	Larry Henderson
Assistant	Tim Brown	Roger Keinath
	Matt Ayotte	Jason Ketels
	Tedd Burton	Arlyn Marks
	Mike Daenzer	Eddie Meeks
	Tim Daenzer	Rod Wilson

7:30PM

Jeffrey Yorke - Captain	
Chad Fackler	Marc Keinath

Church Sextons

Mathew & Angela Ayotte	Ted & Katrina Wager
Ron & Ruth Mieske	Rod & Nancy Wilson
Ed & Marcia Keinath	





November 26, 2013

THANK GOD FOR L.E.A.P.!

Leap team members have been working behind the scenes this Fall to set the stage for more and more collaboration among Lutheran Schools and Churches in our region.

Here's what's been happening in 2013:

Task Forces have met and accomplished a vast majority of the goals set for 2013. In December and January, we will be re-setting goals for 2014. As the year progresses, you will see more tangible actions to bring us together in our task of advancing Lutheran education.

Some of the goals for 2013 included surveys of school parents and school boards. This information is helping us identify key topics so we can offer growth opportunities for those who need them.

Many cohesive actions and opportunities will flow from the information gathered, from the newly formed Pastors and Principals/Education Leaders group, and other venues of sharing needs and resources.

UPDATED STRATEGIC INTENT MISSION STATEMENT!

The implementation team also has re-stated the strategic intent document shared with congregations as LEAP began. The former document called for a blueprint to be developed. That has been done, and is the plan we are following and renewing on a yearly basis. The Implementation Team's mission has now changed to the following regarding all Great Lakes Bay Region congregations:

Build and encourage successful collaboration among all congregations to ensure excellent and financially stable PK-12th grade Lutheran Schools.

We thank the Lord for the progress so far, and pray His blessing on future goals and plans in the year to come!



Epiphany - January 6th
Wise Men
Still Seek Him

Giving Tree / Miscellaneous

Giving Tree

I was recently told that "I couldn't save the world on my own" by someone who cares about me and the Giving Tree. I appreciate her kind words and concern and I love her but... I WANT TO SAVE THE WORLD!! The Giving Tree and all that it does is so vitally important to me. I care so much and through all of the stars that are taken from the tree and the donations, my heart is gladdened by all of you who care also.

Each year there seems to be a greater need. This year we not only helped 20 people through Lutheran Family Children Services (which is now called Wellspring) with gifts, we helped 25 families here in our church and community. These families consisted of 84 individuals. I believe that is the most we have ever had!

Following the premise of the Wisemen giving baby Jesus three gifts, this is what we try and do. The three gifts usually include underwear or clothing of some sort, boots, snow pants or a coat, and a toy or personal item valued at no more than \$30. There are always exceptions, but those are the guidelines we try to follow. We provide a "family basket" which consists of toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towel, laundry detergent, dish soap and household cleaner. These are all items that if you were getting assistance from the state, you COULD NOT purchase with food stamps. With the kind help of some St. Paul bakers, we also include a tin of homemade cookies and this year, someone donated navy beans so they are receiving beans and a recipe for navy bean soup. We give them a gas card and a grocery card. Dorcas often gives us quilts and we always have talented people who provide hats, scarves and mittens.

My greatest wish is when these families pick up their gifts and family baskets, they see much more than a toy and some paper towels; I want them to see LOVE! I want them to see that we as a church family love them and care about them and that through us, they will realize that our love comes through Him! I want them to see a basket of HOPE, hope that things will get better, we understand and it will be alright.

When the Wisemen came to present those gifts to Jesus, they were the finest gifts to be had. When we give the gifts for the Giving Tree, that gift might be the only gift a child will be receiving. That is why we try so hard to make sure they have a wonderful CHRISTmas. There is nothing wrong with handing down a toy or a pair of jeans or shoes; my children have always done that. But if it might be the only gift opened, I want to do all in my power to know that child will know just how precious he is by opening a new toy or shirt or shoes. We can add other gently used items in his package to go along with it and those are appreciated, but everyone deserves something new, all theirs, because they deserve it, they are special and God loves each and every one of them, regardless of their financial situation. No one should feel that they are only worth someone's cast off.

I cannot thank all of you enough for your very generous support every year. I get so excited, wishing I could see their faces when they open up that special gift lovingly provided by one of you.

The Giving Tree consumes me but in a good way! It reminds me how blessed I am. It helps me to remember to pray for these people who need help. I don't know their names, but that is just fine with me, God knows. It helps renew a love for all of my St. Paul family and through the generous donations and love from all of you, I can feel that I am doing a little part to save the world! Because that is what God wants me to do and I do it with gladness and joy. Merry CHRISTmas to all and may God richly bless each and every one of you! - Betty DeOrnellas

Don Haines Memorial Scholarship

Don Haines, lifelong resident of Arbela Township, bestowed a positive influence on his family to pursue their dreams by committing to and reinforcing the importance of a college education. While Don did not pursue this himself, he and his wife, Barbara, raised their children to believe that with a college education they would be able to do whatever they wanted to do in life.

Through the positive reinforcement received and the financial support of Don and Barbara, all four of their children, who attended St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington, pursued and received their college degrees. Therefore, it is fitting that a fund has been established by the family, for future St. Paul graduates who pursue a degree at an accredited LCMS synodical college, university, or seminary. Any student who qualifies may read the requirements needed to apply. Applications are available in the Church Office and need to be returned by Wed., May 2nd.

Oh. . .A new baby!

We would love to welcome each and every one of them with a card and a special visit so, please let the church office know as soon as possible so we can celebrate too.

Online Messenger

If you prefer to read the church messenger or school newsletter online, please call the church office to discontinue the mailing to your home. Simply go to www.stpaul-millington.org. Find the School or Church info drop down menu, go to Current Events then go to Newsletter or Messenger.

JANUARY 2014 – DAILY LECTIONARY
LSB P. 299-304; with Psalm selections from: A Year With the Church Fathers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Circumcision and Name of Jesus Is. 61:1-11 Luke 1:57-80 Ps. – 113; 21	2 Is. 62:1-12 Luke 2:1-20 Ps. – 62:5-8, 11-12; 98	3 Is. 63:1-14 Luke 2:21-40 Ps. – 108:1-6, 12-13; 110	4 Is. 63:15 -- 65:7 Luke 2:41-52 Ps. – 40:6-10; 65
5 2nd S. a. Christmas Is. 65:8-25 Luke 3:1-20 Ps. – 37:34-40; 10	6 Epiphany Is. 66:1-20 Luke 3:21-38 Ps. – 45:1-7; 72	7 Ezek. 1:1-14, 22-28 Rom. 1:1-17 Ps. – 46:4-6, 8-11; 45	8 9AM Bible Study Ezek. 2:1 -- 3:11 Rom. 1:18-32 Ps. – 19:1-6, 9-11, 14	9 Ezek. 3:12-27 Rom. 2:1-16 Ps. – 62:5-12; 32	10 Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32 Rom. 2:17-29 Ps. – 85:1-4, 7-13	11 Ezek. 33:1-20 Rom. 3:1-18 Ps. – 7:1-5, 8-11
12 Baptism of Our Lord/1st S. a. Epiphany Ezek.34:1-24 Rom. 3:19-31 Ps. – 63:3-11; 59	13 Ezek. 36:13-28 Rom. 4:1-25 Ps. – 32:1-7; 51	14 Ezek. 36:33 -- 37:14 Rom. 5:1-21 Ps. – 104:27-30; 79	15 9AM Bible Study Ezek. 37:15-28 Rom. 6:1-23 Ps. - 29	16 Ezek. 38: 1-23 Rom. 7:1-20 Ps. – 36:1-6, 10; 54	17 Ezek. 39:1-10, 17-29 Rom. 7:21 -- 8:17 Ps. – 76: 1-3, 6-12; 137	18 Ezek. 40:1-4; 43:1-12 Rom. 8:18-39 Ps. – 44:1-3, 9-10, 20-23, 26
19 Epiphany 2 Ezek. 44:1-16, 23-29 Rom. 9:1-18 Ps. – 15; 126	20 Ezek. 47:1-14, 21-23 Rom. 9: 19-33 Ps. – 117; 97	21 Joel 1:1-20 Rom. 10:1-21 Ps. – 20; 13	22 9AM Bible Study Joel 2:1-17 Rom. 11:1-24 Ps. – 69:19-23, 32-33	23 Joel 2:18-32 Rom. 11:25-12:13 Ps. – 139:1-6, 12-14	24 Joel 3:1-21 Rom. 12:14 -- 13:14 Ps. – 131; 84	25 Zech. 1:1-21 Rom. 14:1-23 Ps. – 6:4-10; 67
26 Epiphany 3 Zech. 2:1-- 3:10 Rom. 15:1-13 Ps. – 18:46-50; 134	27 Zech. 4:1 -- 5:11 Rom. 15:14-33 Ps. – 1; 109	28 Zech. 6:1-7:14 Rom. 16:17-27 Ps. – 12; 133	29 9AM Bible Study Zech. 8:1-23 2 Tim. 1:1-18 Ps. - 107	30 Zech. 9:1-17 2 Tim. 2:1-26 Ps. - 33	31 Zech. 10:1 -- 11:3 2 Tim. 3:1-17 Ps. - 135:1-7, 13-14	

In later years Luther often remarked that the -- turning point -- for him -- came when he understood the force of the phrase, “the righteousness of God” (Rom. 1:17).

What Luther Says: ...I anxiously and busily worked to understand the word of Paul in Rom. 1:17. I questioned this passage for a long time and labored over it, for the expression “righteousness of God” barred...my way. This phrase was customarily explained to mean that the righteousness of God (the wrath of God) is a virtue by which He is Himself righteous and condemns sinners. As often as I read this passage, I wished that God had never revealed the Gospel; for who could love a God who was angry, who judged and condemned people? This misunderstanding continued until, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, I finally examined more carefully the word of Habakkuk: “The just shall live by his faith” (2:4). From this passage I concluded that life must be derived from faith... Then the entire Holy Scripture became clear to me, and heaven itself was opened to me. [3906] If we are to live righteously because of righteousness by faith and this righteousness of God is intended to save everyone who believes, it follows that righteousness is by faith and life by righteousness.

[1401 – But the real faith, of which we are speaking, cannot be brought into being by our own thoughts. On the contrary, it is entirely God’s work in us, without any co-operation on our part...Therefore it is a very mighty, active, restless, busy thing, which at once renews a man, gives him a second birth, and introduces him to a new manner and way of life, so that it is impossible for him not to do good without ceasing. For as naturally as a tree bears fruit, good works follow upon faith.]

I gathered a similar sense from other expressions. Thus the “work of God” is that which God works in us; the “strength of God” is that through which He makes us strong; the “wisdom of God” is that through which He makes us wise; ...¹

¹ What Luther Says, A Practical In-Home Anthology for the Active Christian, Plass – 2600, 3905, 3906, 1401.



St. Paul Lutheran School

January 2014

Welcome to the year 2014! What a better way to start the brand new year than with our Lord and Savior! We begin our journey with hearts that are open and ready for God to lovingly lead us on His path through this year no matter what it holds for each of us.

The school would like to thank everyone that was able to assist us with this year's Children's Christmas services... from sewing to watching students in classrooms. You, your help and your prayers were definitely

gifts to all of us.

Here is a list of the up-coming school activities for January.

Jan. 6	school resumes ; Epiphany
Jan. 10	Wear your school theme shirt
Jan. 20	No School ~ Great Lakes Bay Teacher Conference
Jan. 23	NO afternoon busses, Spiritual Growth Night at 6 p.m.
Jan. 24	$\frac{1}{2}$ day of classes ~ end of the quarter dismisses at 11:10 a.m.
Jan. 27- Feb. 2	National Lutheran Schools Week Special day events TBA

If there is a school delay or cancellation, we will be following Millington public schools. You will get these notifications on any of the major television or radio stations in the area and through the School Reach phone system of St. Paul.



School Musical Opportunities



Feb. 12

Free Spirit & Alumnus

choice of service .

Spartan Sports Our basketball season for boys and girls on the B-teams finished last month. Congratulations to all the B-teams on seasons well played. Thank you to the coaches, fans and parents for all they did for these children. A-Team basketball starts this month. The girls start the play followed by the boys. Come and support the children as they use their God-given talents.



January

Girl's & Boy's A-team Basketball



















Jan.10	at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	6:00 p.m.
Jan. 15	at St. Michael's, Richville	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	with Christ the King, Sebawaing	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Immanuel, Frankentrost	6:00 p.m.
Jan. 28	at St. Paul, Flint	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	with Trinity, Reese	6:00 p.m.

Check the school office or St. Paul website for additions or changes to the schedule.

We have many programs going on throughout the school year that earn money for St. Paul: Box-Tops for Education, can tabs, Lays and Campbell soup labels, ink cartridges, SCRIP, Meijer and Kroger programs as well as gift cards for Central Shop-Rite, Meijer and Marathon gas stations . See the school office for more information.

January 2014

St. Paul Lutheran Church Activities

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Notes Bible Study Sunday School			1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Offices Closed	2	3	4 7:30AM Men's Bible Study  7:30PM Worship
5  8:30AM Worship+C <i>Church Choir</i> 9:45AM Bible Study Sunday School  11AM Worship <i>Church Choir</i>	6 3PM Music Ministry Meeting 7PM Handbells Public School Confirmation Free Indeed	7 12-3 Quilting 6PM Board of Education 6:15PM Zumba 6:30PM Social Concerns 7:30PM AA	8 9AM Bible Study 2:30PM Dorcas Planning Meeting 6PM Worship Team 6:53PM Choir 7:30PM Council	9 9-11AM Storyhour  6:15PM Praise Team	10 9-11AM Storyhour	11 9AM-7PM Scrapbooking  7:30PM Worship +C
12  8:30AM Worship <i>Adult Confirmation</i> <i>Free Spirit & Alumni</i> 9:45AM New Member Welcome Sunday School  11AM Worship+C <i>Free Spirit & Alumni</i> 4-6PM Jr. Youth 6:30-8:30PM HS Youth	13 7PM Handbells Public School Confirmation Free Indeed Stephen Ministry	14 12-3 Quilting 6:15PM Zumba 7:30PM AA	15 9AM Bible Study 6PM Worship Team 6:53PM Choir	16 9-11AM Storyhour  6:15PM Praise Team 6:15PM Zumba	17 9-11AM Storyhour Family Read Around Night	18  7:30PM Worship
19  8:30AM Worship+C <i>Church Choir/Brass</i> 9:45AM Bible Study Sunday School Dorcas Tea Party  11AM Worship Contemporary 1:30PM Color of Rain 4-6PM Jr. Youth 6:30-8:30PM HS Youth	20 <i>No School</i> 7PM Handbells Public School Confirmation Free Indeed	21 12-3 Quilting 6:15PM Zumba 7:30PM AA Heroes	22 9AM Bible Study 6PM Worship Team 6:53PM Choir	23 9-11AM Storyhour  6:15PM Praise Team	24 <i>½ Day School</i> 9-11AM Storyhour 5PM Rehearsal	25 1PM Wedding Gerry Smith & Samantha VanCamp  7:30PM Worship +C
26 <i>Lutheran Schools Week</i>  8:30AM Worship <i>Handbells</i> 9:45AM Bible Study Sunday School  11AM Worship+C Contemporary 11AM-2PM Fish Fry (Take outs begin at 10AM)	27 7PM Handbells Public School Confirmation Free Indeed Stephen Ministry	28 12-3 Quilting 6:15PM Zumba 7:30PM AA	29 9AM Bible Study 6PM Worship Team 6:53PM Choir	30 9-11AM Storyhour  6:15PM Praise Team	31 7AM Breakfast Club at MHS hosted by St. Paul 9-11AM Storyhour	