

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

December 2014

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

A Message from Pastor Bruner

*The December Messenger
is sponsored in memory of
Gail Brown's birthday.*

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

When the Publishers Clearing House prize is awarded, they go to the person's house and ring the doorbell. They surprise them with balloons and an oversized check. The expression on the recipient's face is a mixture of shock and joy. They never expected such a surprise to come to their home.

You and I can stay at home and hope our doorbell will ring next. The odds are not in our favor.

Would you like to receive something of greater value that will bring lasting joy? This gift is for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Mt. 5:6). Each week the bells are rung at the house of God. ALL who are inside this house will be offered the gifts God provides free of charge.

Not everyone recognizes the value of these gifts. God doesn't need us to come to His house to give Him anything. God invites us to come to His house so that He can give us gifts of great value!

God wants us to rejoice over the shocking message that He has redeemed us from sin, death and the devil. We have many worries in life, but none as serious as these three mentioned. In order to award this prize to us, God paid the price of suffering and dying on the cross for all of our sins.

God delivers valuable gifts every weekend at His house. Actually, as an adopted child of God, it is our house too. You and I are invited to be inside when the bells ring, so that we can receive the gifts God is giving: His unconditional love, assurance that we are His children through the waters of Holy Baptism, forgiveness spoken in the Absolution, forgiveness and strength given through the Sacrament of the Altar.

What I am writing is simple. Think about what God is offering to us each week at His house. In this month of gift giving, we can continue to learn about the original gift that inspired giving gifts. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son....For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him" (John 3:16-17). Every time the bells are rung at St. Paul Lutheran Church, I hope we will ALL be shocked and filled with joy at what God has given to us and continues to give.

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

Pastor James Bruner
1 John 4:10-11

The Magic of
Christmas

Is not in the
presents,

but in *His* presence.



Spiritual News

Adult Bible Studies

9:45AM Sunday Morning

Bible Study – Led by Pastor Bruner in the Library.

Adult Instruction Classes

Led by Pastor Abatelli in the Rehearsal Room.

Daily Lectionary Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9AM in the Council Room.

Men's Bible Study (Heroes)

Tues., Dec. 9th at 7:30PM in the Library.



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

December 7th

"Looking Forward" - 2 Peter 3:13-14

December 14th

"Who Are You?" - John 1:6-8, 19-28

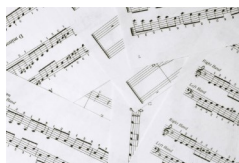
December 21st

"Christmas Lessons and Carols" - Genesis 3:8-15,
Micah 5:2, 4-5a, Luke 1:26-35, Luke 2:1-7,
Luke 2:8-14, John 1:1-5, 10-14

December 28th

"Realizing the Redeemer" - Luke 2:36-38

Musical Opportunities



Church Band

Mondays at 2:45PM

Handbells

Mondays at 7PM

Church Choir

Wednesdays at 6:53PM

Praise Team

Thursdays at 6:15PM

December Scripture Readings

December 7th

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

December 14th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thess. 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21st

2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

December 28th

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

2015 Church Election Results

Winners will be formally accepted at the December Voters' Assembly Meeting. New and retiring board members will be asked to meet with their boards in December. Thank you to all who prayerfully considered running for leadership positions.

President

To Be Determined

Treasurer

Steve Kern

Board of Elders

Phil Gordon

Dale Higgins

Jeremy Petzold

Heather Petzold

Amy Yorke

Elaine Bickel

Connie Daenzer

Josh Cunningham

To Be Determined

Jan Snyder

To Be Determined

Board of Stewardship

Robert Johnson

Dwight Keinath

Hans Schmandt

Sue Eilers

To Be Determined

Board of Social Concerns

Duane Weber

Becky Wolfington

Sharon Wyman

Salary and Personnel

Jesus
is the Reason
for the Season!
Merry Christmas!!



Calendar of Events



Coed Volleyball

Monday nights from 7-9PM
in the Activity Center. Bring gym shoes.

Storyhour

Tuesdays from 9-11AM in the Youth Room. Free for all preschool children. If questions, please call Lori Osborn 989-205-9873 or come in any Tuesday morning.

Quilting



Tuesdays from 1-3PM in the Parish Hall.
No experience is needed! We can always use material, thread, sheets, blankets, jeans, and volunteers. Please bring to the church office or the Parish Hall on Tuesdays. If questions, please call Lori 989-205-9873.

AA Meetings

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

Oils of the Bible

Thurs., Dec. 4th at 6:30PM in the Library

12 Oils of Ancient Scripture

*God's Pharmacy: Sandalwood, Cassia, Cedarwood,
Cypress, Frankincense, Myrrh, Galbanum, Hyssop,
Myrtle, Onycha, Rose of Sharon, Spikenard*

Find out how these oils were used and how you can use them today for a healthier lifestyle.

Book Fair

Buy One Get One Free Book Fair after services Sat. and Sun., Dec. 6th & 7th.

Fiesta Dinner Taco Bar

Hosted by PTL and Student Council
Sun., Dec. 7th at 5PM.

Free will donation. All proceeds will go to Kay Keinath.

Gift Wrapping



Do you get overwhelmed at the thought of Christmas Gift Wrapping? Let the St. Paul Student Council ELVES help you. They will be wrapping gifts on Fri., Dec. 12th beginning at 3PM. Gifts can be brought to the Parish Hall Friday from 9AM-6PM and need to be picked up by 8PM. \$1.00 per gift. Wrapping paper provided. If questions, call Heather Jones 810-360-3462 or the church office.

Messenger/Calendar Deadline
Friday, December 12th

Scrapbooking

Sat., Dec. 13th 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. **R.S.V.P.** in the school office 871-4581 or school.office@spsmill.org. **SCRAPBOOKING MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME....JESUS MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER!**

Craft Workshop

Sat., December 13th from 9AM-7PM
in the Parish Hall.

Please share your creative projects or just come in for an hour or two and work on your hobby while we spend time together. Bring your own supplies and sit with friends.



Voters' Assembly Meeting

Sunday, December 14th at 1:30PM
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Essential Oils 101

Thurs., Dec. 18th at 6:30PM in the Library
Everyone is invited to find out how to use essential oils to live a life of wellness, purpose, and abundance. Questions? Call Jan at 989-475-2091.

Holiday Office Hours

Dec. 25, 26, 31, & Jan. 1: Offices Closed
Christmas Eve hours: 9AM-12PM
Dec. 22, 23, 29, 30, 31: 9AM-3PM

December Meetings

Council

Wed., Dec. 3rd at 8PM

Stephen Ministry

Mondays at 7PM

Trustees

Sun., Dec. 14th at 6PM

Elders

Wed., Dec. 17th at 8PM

**WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Memorials / Serve & Volunteer

December 2014

MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF Roy Petzold

Stephens Ministry	\$ 110.00
Altar Guild	\$ 10.00
Building Fund	\$ 190.00
General Fund	\$ 600.00
To Be Designated By Memorial Committee	\$ 40.00
To Be Designated By Family	\$1870.00
St. Paul School	\$ 185.00
Wellspring Lutheran Services	\$ 25.00

IN HONOR OF the 56th Wedding

Anniversary of Dale & Valerie Peche

LCMS World Relief \$ 50.00

Special Thanks

I wish to **thank** everyone who expressed appreciation for my ministry during the month of October. Every small word or note of encouragement speaks to my heart. I am grateful for the cards and various gifts that communicated love and support. I was taught to "love God's people," and I rely on God to help me do this through word and action. Thank you again.

Remember – you matter to God and you matter to me. Pastor Bruner

Wow! What a blessing! My family and I want to **thank you** all for those encouraging words and gifts during pastor appreciation month. They have shown me what God has been doing in you. I am thankful for that partnership we share in this Gospel of Christ, because after seeing Him in you, I am confident that Christ who began His good work in you will bring it in to completion when He returns again.

God bless you.

Pastor Abatelli and Family

The Millington Fall Festival committee would like to **thank** all teachers, students, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas and church members who made the time to help out with this year's Fall Festival. We appreciate each and every one of you and plan on seeing you next year. If you have suggestions please call the school office.

Dear Friends of St. Paul,

Earlier this month, we received another gift from you, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We would like to **thank you**, again, for your generosity. We have transitioned quite well into our administrative and teaching positions at Christ the King Lutheran School. We love you and miss you. God's Blessings and Peace. The Kaisers

Opportunities to Serve & Volunteer

Christian Care

The **Christian Care Committee is asking for your help.**

There are some people in our congregation that need someone to stay with them for several hours. The times and days will vary depending on scheduled appointments. If you are able to help, please call the church office 871-4581, Carol Weber 871-9975, or Paul Schoenknecht 871-2280. Thank you.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up! We ALWAYS need items for the family baskets so if you find good deals on laundry or dish detergent, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towel, shampoo and household cleaners, it will be GREATLY appreciated!! This year we will only be filling stars for children to age 18. All LCFS gifts need to be turned in by Dec. 5th or sooner and should be UNWRAPPED. All other stars that are filled should be WRAPPED with star firmly attached and returned by Dec. 11th. PLEASE try return them by that date or sooner. We will have to shop for stars not turned in and money for this is always an issue. Please prayerfully consider taking stars and filling or contributing with monetary gifts, they are so helpful. Thank you for honoring our Lord with a giving heart! Any questions, please call Betty DeOrnellas 871-4444.

Upcoming January Events

Breakfast Club

All students are welcome to enjoy breakfast and a devotion every Friday at 7AM in the Library at the Millington High School.

St. Paul is hosting breakfast on January 16th. This is a very important ministry that St. Paul can help provide at the public school. **We need your donations to help make this ministry possible.** Items needed: eggs, shredded cheese, ground sausage, soft taco shells, 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.

Fish Fry

Save the Date!! The annual fish fry will take place January 25, 2015. The dinner will include baked and fried fish, as well as a variety of side dishes. There will also be a dessert auction and fellowship activities for all members. More information will be coming out in the following weeks.

Did You Know?

Most people within our congregation consider the school as the great mission and great blessing of the congregation. What does it take for our school to be operating for generations to come? **DID YOU ALSO KNOW?** The total paid staff at our church and school stands at 27. It is the responsibility of the membership of the congregation to supply for the physical and spiritual needs of these workers. How great it would be if the staff was showered with support in both these areas.

Stand Against—Stand For

Sharing the Message of Lutherans for Life, Abortion and the Church, Worldview and Culture

We know Luther's words. "I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand; I can do no other, so help me God. Amen." Luther stood against the false teachings of the church of his day. He risked his life to do so. He stood against indulgences, works righteousness, and the undermining of Scriptural authority.

At the same time, Luther also stood *for* truth. Luther stood for grace alone, for faith alone, and for Scripture alone. His conviction of these truths gave him the courage to risk his life and stand against the falsehoods that assaulted him.

Paul reminds us to stand against. "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). The devil uses many schemes to erode faith, and we err greatly if we exclude abortion and the increasing receptivity of assisted suicide from his arsenal. Worse, we become co-schemers when we consign such assaults on life to the political or social realm and do not stand against them as "spiritual forces of evil" (6:12). We risk insults, controversy, division, and, perhaps sooner than we might think, our lives to take such a stand.

As for Luther, our courage to stand against comes from standing *for* God's truth. We stand *for* His Trinitarian truth about life. He creates each life. He has redeemed each life. He desires to call each life. Nothing else matters when it comes to assigning value to human life. We have a positive message to share. We have a message that sends the devil scurrying. We have a message that changes hearts and lives.

Luther did not just stand *against* what the church of his day taught. He stood *for* the truth that God taught. We do not just stand against what our culture is for when it comes to the value of life. We stand for what our God is for! He gives us His armor to stand against. He gives us His truth to stand for. By James Lamb www.lutheransforlife.org

November was National Adoption Month. Below is a real love letter written by a young girl, Sarah, to her baby. Here are just a few sentences from her letter:

"Dear Baby, Your life has brought more happiness to this world than I could ever imagine. Along with the happiness, it has brought a great decision. It is a decision that will make the rest of your life. This grand choice was given to me, your birth mother, in what seems like years ago.... Your life has already touched many people. Choosing adoption has been the most difficult decision of my life, but it has taught me a lot. Most importantly, I've learned to put my feelings aside when someone else's life is involved. I love you, baby, with all my heart. I hope you will always know that my decision to give you away was not because I didn't want or love you, but exactly the opposite. Love, Mom." Love Stories' by Adoption Associates, Inc.

Right to Life of Michigan supports the option of adoption. If you or someone you know is experiencing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy, there are many options available. More than 150 pregnancy and adoption support agencies throughout Michigan exist to provide free help to women and men in need.

Pro-life saves the baby – Pro-love saves the baby and the Mom
Abortion is forever – get the facts first

Resource Centers: www.rtl.org www.lifenews.com www.prghelp@sbcglobal.net
www.fentonrighttolife.org www.lutheransforlife.org

Daily Lectionary Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2014 Daily Lectionary - LSB: pp. 299-304	1 Is 7:10 -- 8:8 1 Pt 3:1-22 Ps 34:11-18	2 Is 8:9 -- 9:7 1 Pt 4:1-19 Ps 119:105-112	3 Bible Study 9:00 am Is 9:8 -- 10:11 1 Pt 5:1-14 Ps 55:16-23	4 Is 10:12-27a, 33-34 2 Pt 1:1-21 Ps 145:1-9	5 Is 11:1 -- 12:6 2 Pt 2:1-22 Ps 49	6 Is 14:1-23 2 Pt 3:1-18 Ps 56
7 2nd S. in Advent Is 24:1-13 1 Jn 1:1 -- 2:14 Ps 25:1-7	8 Is 24:14 -- 25:12 1 Jn 2:15-29 Ps 11	9 Is 26:1-19 1 Jn 3:1-24 Ps 17:6-15	10 Bible Study 9:00 am Is 26:20 -- 27:13 1 Jn 4:1-21 Ps 86:1-7	11 Is 28:14-29 1 Jn 5:1-21 Ps 5:1-8	12 Is 29:1-14 Jude 1-25 Ps 106	13 Is 29:15 -- 30:14 Rv 1:1-20 Ps 89:20-29
14 3rd S. in Advent Is 30:15-26 Rv 2:1-29 Ps 27:1, 4-5, 11-14	15 Is 30:27 -- 31:9 Rv 3:1-22 Ps 146:1-7	16 Is 32:1-20 Rv 4:1-11 Ps 149	17 Bible Study 9:00 am Is 33:1-24 Rv 5:1-14 Ps 40:1-5, 16-17	18 Is 34:1-2, 8 ---35:10 Rv 6:1-17 Ps 119:81-88	19 Is 40:1-17 Rv 7:1-17 Ps 103:11-18	20 Is 40:18 -- 41:10 Rv 8:1-13 Ps 119:25-32
21 4th S. in Advent Is 42:1-25 Rv 9:1-12 Ps 102	22 Is 43:1-24 Rv 9:13 -- 10:11 Ps 115:1-8	23 Is 43:25 -- 44:20 Rv 11:1-19 Ps 39:4-8	24 Christmas Eve Is 44:21 -- 45:13, 20-25 Rv 12:1-17 Ps 98:1-9	25 Christmas Day Is 49:1-18 Mt 1:1-17 Ps 96:1-5, 11-13	26 Is 49:22-26; 50:4 -- 51:8, 12-16 Mt 1:18-25 Ps 34:4-10 & v.19	27 Is 51:17 -- 52:12 Mt 2:1-12 Ps 72:1, 4, 10-15, 18-19
28 Christmas 1 Is 52:13 -- 54:10 Mt 2:13-23 Ps 9:11-14	29 Is 55:1-13 Lk 1:1-25 Ps 78:1-7	30 Is 58:1 -- 59:3, 14-21 Lk 1:26-38 Ps 89:1-4, 14-18	31 New Year's Eve Is 60:1-22 Lk 1:39-56 Ps 111:1-6 & v.10			

From: One Incarnate Truth, Uwe Siemon-Netto (ed), *Christmas: The Birth of A Jewish Babe*, David Brickner, pp. 29-32 (cph).

Everyone missed the most significant news of the year, except for a few shepherds, a couple of elderly folks in Jerusalem, and several political leaders from the Far East. The news? A Jewish girl had given birth to a baby boy... Hardly headline news---except for the fact that this baby boy would change the course of human history. Except for the fact that the birth of this child would signal world redemption. Except for the fact that this birth...would become the moment by which all other events in time would be measured.

Those 1st century shepherds...were a simple and lowly folk. ...To these shepherds, the revelation of the babe came and the glory of God was revealed. Perhaps their willingness to let the truth be the truth and to respond without rationalization made them the most likely candidates to hear from God. ...If we want to be among those who recognize His hand in history, ...it's necessary to resist cynical tendencies in ourselves and in our society. It is necessary to prefer simple truth...and view the trends of ...culture through the lens and light of God's revelation. In this way we can quiet the din of worldly clamor and listen for the voices of angels.

...Something within those Wise Men led them from the comfort and safety of their prominent positions to make the long journey to a foreign land. ...They worshiped Him and gave gifts. And they were able to partake in God's messianic promise, though they were outsiders.

The third group able to recognize what God was doing in their time were saintly sages, two elderly Jewish folk whose hearts were attuned to the promises of the Scriptures. Anna and Simeon---Together they represented those who studied the Bible and believed it to be absolutely true and trustworthy. They knew that human destiny was not dependent on the power of the sword or political manipulation but on the sovereign plan of God. Thus Simeon and Anna held in their very arms the One who would redeem Israel and be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" as well.



December Birthdays in our St. Paul Family



Deborah ILL	12/1	Joshua Petzold	12/9	Doris Meier	12/15	Judith Lichnovsky	12/24
Kamden Keinath	12/1	Michelle Sayles	12/9	Aaron O'Connor	12/15	Billie Loper	12/24
Cole Ratza	12/1	Lillian Sergent	12/9	Harvey Schiefer	12/15	Arnold Petzold	12/24
Izora Sergent	12/1	Michael Tebedo	12/9	Cheryl Anderson	12/16	Gary Wagner	12/24
Judith Snover	12/1	Andria Weakley	12/9	Elaine Bickel	12/16	Kalie Weakley	12/24
Andrew Weber	12/1	Marilyn Daenzer	12/10	William Kirby	12/16	Jena Petzold	12/25
Taylor Wirsing	12/1	Elizabeth Goodhue	12/10	Denise Miller	12/16	Linda Schmidt	12/25
Logan Myers	12/2	Michael Lynn	12/10	Andrew Rosebush	12/16	Stephen Erickson	12/26
Delores Reinert	12/2	Margaret Miller	12/10	Lexie Swink	12/16	Gerald Higgins	12/26
Tyler Rude	12/2	Violet Myers	12/10	Susan Washburn	12/16	Larry Jensen	12/26
Zachary Simon	12/2	Chy Rueckert	12/10	James Weber	12/16	Connor Mason	12/26
Jodi Torrey	12/2	Scott Soderlund	12/10	Monica Lusk	12/17	Kassandra Mills	12/26
Jeremy Corrigan	12/3	Geraldine Blue	12/11	Nancy Meier	12/17	Anna Reinig	12/26
Tonya Daenzer	12/3	Dana Earl	12/11	Jo Anne Noyce	12/17	Tamera Dreher	12/27
Dawn Knoll	12/3	Lorine Edler	12/11	Sarah Pobocik	12/17	Ryan Lichnovsky	12/27
Ashley Koch	12/3	Judith Grulke	12/11	Craig Reinert	12/17	Marie Ross	12/27
Melissa Sandusky	12/3	Jeffrey Johnston	12/11	Angelique Babcock	12/18	Robert Fall	12/28
Sarah Waterman	12/3	Janette Keinath	12/11	Carol Burchett	12/18	Lynnette Keinath	12/28
Debra Hazel	12/4	Karl Ramsey	12/11	Shelby Howay	12/18	Niola Leach	12/28
Lori Kowitz	12/4	Terry Reinbold	12/11	Annette Marks	12/18	Arlyn Marks	12/28
Holly Leach	12/4	Timothy Rueger	12/11	Susan Morrow	12/18	William White	12/28
Daniel Petzold	12/4	Kimberly Sergent	12/11	Karri Smith	12/18	Mathew Ayotte	12/29
Stephen Roggentine	12/4	Irene Smith	12/11	Bradlee Snyder	12/18	Floyd Harsen	12/29
Brad Sayles	12/4	Sandra St. Onge	12/11	Brody Willson	12/18	Cameron Henderson	12/29
Michael Titsworth	12/4	Jason Stewart	12/11	Ricks Anderson	12/19	James Rude	12/29
Eric Galant	12/5	Bo Schember	12/12	Nicholas Borcharding	12/19	Marvin Schiefer	12/29
Daniel Karcher	12/5	Michelle Stewart	12/12	Sandra Brow	12/19	Alexis Sutton	12/29
Amy Opperman	12/5	Linda Windt	12/12	Dane Coleman	12/19	Erwin Weber	12/29
Theda Sebert	12/5	Logan Wirsing	12/12	Karrie Colman	12/19	Lideth Brueggemann	12/30
William Woodward	12/5	Deborah Bierlein	12/13	Paul Rogers	12/19	Ira Ewald	12/30
Scott Jensen	12/6	Frances Carnet	12/13	Sandy Shamel	12/19	Shannon Keinath	12/30
Kari Johnston	12/6	Christopher Jensen	12/13	Marie Trinklein	12/19	Amanda Marks	12/30
Diane Leach	12/6	Sayer Puzjak	12/13	Chase Guelette	12/20	Jami Petzold	12/30
Nathaniel Wood	12/6	Gerry Smith II	12/13	Steven Holmes Sr.	12/20	Kristina Soteropoulos	12/30
Linda Conrad	12/7	Ashtyn Stewart	12/13	Alexis Hudie	12/20	Jeff Staple	12/30
Richard Daniel	12/7	Amy Casto	12/14	Holli Johnson	12/20	Donna Torrey	12/30
Connie Keinath	12/7	Tyler Lichnovsky	12/14	Chester Petzold	12/20	Danny Brandle	12/31
Angelica Powell	12/7	Michael Lyons	12/14	Seth Sundberg	12/20	Brody Germain	12/31
Rylyn Roth	12/7	Alison Reinig	12/14	Norma Taylor	12/20	Dean Mason	12/31
Elizabeth Selich	12/7	Dennis Schmidt	12/14	Richard Coon	12/21	John Osborn	12/31
Candice Tatro	12/7	Donna J. Weber	12/14	Megan Curtis	12/21	Kenneth Soderlund	12/31
Molly Wolfington	12/7	Ireva Wolverton	12/14	Julie Rude	12/21	Teresa Walter	12/31
Lisa Balcer	12/8	John Allard	12/15	Trenton Weber	12/21		
Carol Weber	12/8	Robert Baker	12/15	Jacquelyn Petzold	12/22		
Mary White	12/8	Karen Bruner	12/15	Sarah Brown	12/23		
Grace Adamic	12/9	Melissa Hager	12/15	Larry Kammer	12/23		
Matthew Allen	12/9	Cherri Herrick	12/15	Marlene Keipinger	12/23		
Kaitlyn Burton	12/9	Dylan Horning	12/15	Alexander Kern	12/23		
Danielle DeOrnellas	12/9	Jonah Horning	12/15	Rhonda Nielson	12/23		
David Janowski	12/9	Nicolas Horning	12/15	Sheila Peche	12/23		
Joshua Keinath	12/9	Eden Johnson	12/15	Christine Jaruzel	12/24		



***God's Richest Blessings
on Your Birthday!***



Acolytes

December Schedule



3	4PM	Advent	Timmy David
3	7PM	Advent	
6	7:30PM		Dustin & Sydney Bishop
7	8:30AM		Katherine Weber & Duane
7	11AM		Pierce & Sterling Force
7	4PM	Concert	Abby Brown & Tim
10	4PM	Advent	Zac Maas
10	7PM	Advent	
13	7:30PM		Zac Yorke & Jeff
14	8:30AM		Evan Hoard & Ethan
14	11AM		Zac Maas
17	4PM	Advent	Evan Hoard & Ethan
17	7PM	Advent	

20	7:30PM		Corey Daenzer & Tim
21	8:30AM		Joshua Allen & Justin
21	11AM		Kaitlyn Ill & Jeff
21	6PM	Children's	Jack Shreve
24	6PM	Children's	Dustin & Sydney Bishop
24	9PM	Candle	Corey Daenzer & Tim
25	10AM	Christmas	Kaitlyn Ill & Jeff
27	7:30PM		Mason Lugg
28	8:30AM		Tyler Bentley & Brian
28	11AM		Timmy David
31	5PM	NY Eve	Larry Ill

Greeters

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

Ushers

8:30AM

Captain	Dwight Keinath	Jeremy Petzold
	Michael Albert	Luke Platt
	Ken Auernhammer	Dennis Rodammer
	Corey Harry	Eugene Weiss
	Mitchel Ill	Bud Zeck
	Colin Meacham	Mike Ziegler
	Daniel Meacham	

11:00AM

Captain	Richard Harpst	Hans Schmandt
Assistant	Jay Rodammer	Michael Sherman
	Mike Hoard	Rick Sherman
	Heath Keinath	Randy Wolverton
	John Petzold	Bryan Wilson Jr.
	Michael Rader	

7:30PM

Captain	Larry Beagle	Jim Jaruzel
	Don Bierlein	Ed Keinath

Church Sextons

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

Altar Guild Communion Set-Up

7:30PM - Lillian Sergent
8:30AM - Joyce Wager
11AM - Jan McKee

Miscellaneous

Altar Flowers

The **2015 Flower Chart** is hanging in the hallway between the church mailboxes. When signing up for altar flowers, please write your name, phone number, and center or side vases. Thank you!

Messenger Sponsors

Messenger sponsors are needed for 2015. The cost is now \$125.00 per month to cover the postage. Please call the church office if interested.

Church Offering Envelopes

2015 offering envelopes are in the narthex. Please do not use them until January 1st. If you can't find your envelopes, please call the church office.

Hospitalizations

If you or a loved one are in the hospital and would like to receive a visit and/or be placed on the prayer list, please notify the church office as soon as you can. The hospitals do not always notify us due to HIPA/privacy laws.

Candy Bags

Every year candy bags are distributed to the children following the Children's Christmas Services. If you would like to donate candy (for 300 bags) or money to help defray the costs, please bring your donation to the church or school office or place in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Candy Bags" by Mon., Dec. 15th. Thank you!

Staff Christmas Gift

If you would like to show your appreciation for the St. Paul staff, please place your cash donation in an envelope marked "Staff Christmas" and place in the offering plate or bring to the church office by Mon., Dec. 15th. This gift will also include the cooks and janitors. Please remember, this is not a tax deductible gift and will not be recorded on your giving statement.

Annual Reports

Reports are needed from every board and committee for the 2014 year. Please email stacey.force@spmill.org or bring to the church office by Wed., Jan. 14th. If questions, call the office at 871-4581.

Millington Jr./Sr. High School 1st Period Honor Roll

All A's

Alexandria Sergeant
Amanda Stohon
Kayli Leix
Amanda Maschke
Elizabeth Zeck
Kylie Auernhammer
Madeline Hanlin
Jenna Meacham
Taylor Rueger
Jakob Selich
Molly Wolfington
Briar Bearss
Rylyn Roth
Gabrielle Sergeant
Drew Germain
Erin Schwab
Riley Coleman
Brody Germain

B or Better

Kelli Crittenden
Cole Sergeant
Kara Blue
Tyler Goodhue
Addison Ley
Hayley Usrey
Emily DeOrnellas
Eddie Meeks
Bryce Bearss
Hannah Hall
Brody Norman
Elizabeth Selich
Luka Selich
Taylor Wirsing
Cade Coleman
Hunter Jones

Area News

Millington Christmas in the Village Mon., Dec. 1st from 4-8PM. Christmas Caroling after parade, Living Nativity, Warming Tent. Everyone invited!

Valley Lutheran High School Fall Information Night Tues., Dec. 2nd for all area 7th and 8th grade students and parents at Valley Lutheran, Saginaw. The event begins at 7PM, and will be designed to give students and parents a better idea of what makes VLHS the school that it is. For more information, contact Tom Roekle at troekle@vlhs.com or through the school office (790-1676). We hope to see YOU there!

Boar's Head Festival at Bethlehem Lutheran, Saginaw, Thurs., Dec. 4th at 7:30PM, Sat., Dec. 6th at 7:30PM, Sun., Dec. 7th at 4 & 7:30PM. Free will donation.

18th Annual Living Nativity "A Journey to Bethlehem" at Immanuel, Frankentrost. Fri., Dec. 5th from 7-9PM, Sat. & Sun., Dec. 6 & 7 from 6-8PM. Experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on the blessed night when Jesus Christ was born.

All You Can Eat Cod Fri., Dec. 12th from 11AM-2PM and 4-7PM at St. Martin, Birch Run. Adults: \$10, 5-12 Years: \$7, Under 5: Free.

Candles & Carols Sun., Dec. 14th at 6PM at the Millington Church of God. Hosted by the Millington Ministerial Alliance.

What is Thrivent Choice?

The Thrivent Choice program is a charitable grant program that encourages members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funding to causes important to them. The program has two components – Choice Dollars® and Thrivent Choice Voting® Events – which result in the distribution of several million dollars of grant funds to causes that members like you care about most.

If you qualify, your Choice Dollars can be directed every quarter, or once a year. If you haven't directed your dollars for 2014, please call Thrivent or go online to www.thrivent.com by March 31, 2015.

A Letter from the Board of Stewardship / Financial Report

Dear Fellow Members:

In 1997, after much prayer, debate and discussion, the members of St. Paul, as one body moving forward, chose, with the help of God, to make much needed additions to our school. A second phase of classrooms was added in 2001. The monthly mortgage payment at this time was \$11,000.00.

Then again in 2009, after much prayer, debate, discussion and healthy disagreement, this congregation chose to boldly move forward with providing a much needed gymnasium/activity center for the benefit of the entire congregation. The congregation undertook a large scale fundraising event with pledged commitments for three years. After the gymnasium/activity center was completed, the new monthly payment became \$14,135.00.

Taking on huge debt by a congregation is never without concern. For 15 of the last 17 years, the members of this congregation came together and made every monthly mortgage payment, as well as met the daily needs of the congregation.

In the last two years, the amount donated has declined. For several months, we have not received enough money to make the monthly mortgage payment. We had some money on account for a rainy day and have used some of that each month to make up the difference. That money is now gone. If there is not a renewed pattern of giving, we will be forced to take money from the general fund offering on a monthly basis to make up for the shortcoming. Our general fund cannot afford that.

The purpose of this letter is to be sure that the congregation is aware of this situation. We also wish to remind you that for approximately 125 years whenever a challenge has presented itself to this congregation the members have come together and responded positively.

We wish to encourage you to look closely at what you can do to help. We respectfully ask that as you evaluate your personal response to this crisis, keep these two things in mind: first, it is important that we do not take money from our already struggling general fund to benefit the building fund and second, it is important that we find a solution to improve our building fund offering that will be sustained for the long haul. If we each do a small part, whether it be giving up one Starbucks coffee, or not going out to eat each one time, together we will more than provide for what God has blessed us with.

It is hoped that as in the past, this generation will band together for the common goal of meeting all of our financial obligations.

Thank you for your attention.

Monthly Financial Report for Congregation – General Church Account

Carryover Deficit as of 9/30/14		(\$107,911.42)
October General Fund Income	\$81,715.62	
General Fund Expenses	(\$96,236.41)	
+ / - for Month of October	(\$14,520.79)	
Ongoing Deficit to Date		(\$122,432.21)
+ / - For Current Fiscal Year 2014/2015 through 10/31/14		(\$48,749.39)
Monthly Givings		
Building Fund (Direct givings, Memorials, etc.)	\$14,451.59	
Missions (District, Non-District, Memorials)	\$1,520.51	
T.I.M. (Direct givings plus mission %)	\$954.87	
VLHS (Direct givings plus mission %)	\$272.82	
CEF Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$14,135.00	
Building Fund Contributions-October	\$12,832.12	
Memorial Board – Various Memorials	\$140.00	
Grandparent's Day Chapel	\$613.07	
Infaith Grant	\$866.40	
Building Fund Account Surplus	\$316.59	
CEF balance in the Building Fund Account as of 10/20/14:	\$2,506.95	
Mortgage principal balance as of 9/30/14:	1,225,280.56	

Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
he thought.
doesn't come
FROM A STORE.
Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
perhaps, **means**
A LITTLE BIT MORE.
~ The Grinch ~

Food for Thought. . .What Do You Think?

All Things New: Do Today's Families Have Room for Church?

By: Brandon Metcalf (youthsource.com)

If you take the time to ask a parent to list all the different roles they fill in their houses, you'd better be sure that you have some time to spare. A list like this would include everything from caregiver to garbage collector, from chef to taxi driver, from counselor to coach and all sorts of roles in-between. If a person were to attempt to receive higher education to be employed in all of the different jobs that parents fill, it would take at least a couple of lifetimes to get the necessary education and then a few more lifetimes to pay the student loans. Parenting is as multi-faceted as it gets, yet we really receive very little training for it other than the modeling of how we were raised. This leads to parents who are constantly running around between these different roles, while at the same time wondering if anything they are doing is good or if it will last with their kids.

How does the church fit into this picture? Another question lies behind this and really gets to the heart of the matter: Can church even fit into this picture? Is there any room for us to squeeze the church into the lives of our families? Even though we do not want to say it this bluntly, this is the question that too often pervades our thinking as church workers. It's a question that comes out of despair, frustration, and a lost identity of what the church has to offer.

Let's first look at what families don't have room or time for. They don't have time for another purely social outing or gathering. They don't have room for another concert or show. They don't have room to be a crowd-control chaperone on yet another trip or event. The vast majority of today's families already have a schedule filled with all those types of things, and they aren't chomping at the bit to add more of the same.

Is the solution found in the church simply outperforming those other activities? Here's what happens when we try this. We see churches that advertise their relationships as "authentic" and "accepting", even though there are many times when, in order to be authentic, you can't accept what someone is doing. We sell worship as an emotional entertaining experience all about us, when people really want a chance to get outside of themselves and sing about something greater than their story. We put the focus on the individual's relationship with Christ to appeal to the cultural sense of individualism, and then are befuddled when they don't give money to support a corporate church system. Even more, they don't want to use their spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. The really sad thing is that a scan of churches across the country will reveal that this is where so much of our effort and ingenuity is going. We're trying to outperform the culture at being culture in an effort to have church outrank the other activities and roles that today's families have.

The focus should not be on the church trying to compete with the rest of the family schedule in order to win a few time slots each week, month or year. Instead, we need to focus on what the church has to offer that no one else can: Christ. We can and should seek excellence in all that we do, but that's ultimately not how we reach out to people as the church. The greatest thing we have to offer today's families is the same thing that God's church has offered from Genesis on. What separates us is not a style of worship, but a God from whose love nothing can separate us (Romans 8:38-39). What sets us apart is not an active small group program, but a God who sets us apart in Baptism and adopts us as members of His family (Isaiah 43:1, Ephesians 1:5). What "sells" the church is not a certain atmosphere on Sunday mornings, but that the very Son of God bought us at the price of His own life (1 Peter 1:18-19).

So, to answer the big question, do today's families have room for church? Absolutely, if they know what the church is actually about. Families don't need another event to add to the calendar, they need an overarching purpose for all of those things on their calendar (Matthew 28:19-20). Parents are constantly worried and anxious about their kids and their lives. They need a God who promises to always be with us (Philippians 4:6-7, Hebrews 13:5) and gives peace through His Word, the Sacraments, and prayer. Every household, whether it's "broken" by divorce or not, is broken by sin and is in desperate need of forgiveness (Romans 3:23-24). The list can go on and on, but it is really summarized in this: our families need Jesus. Plain and simple. And that's something that no other organization, activity, entertainment or system can offer. Can families "fit" church in? I don't think they can afford not to. It's not something you work on simply fitting in, but it's something you build your life, house and family around. In whatever area of ministry that you are involved in, let God's gifts be the focus and the highlight, because there is truly nothing else around that can compare. That's what will lead families to use their gifts as part of the Church God has made.

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

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**December
2014**



Upcoming Special Services

Advent:

Wed., Dec. 3rd - 4PM & 7PM

Wed., Dec. 10th - 4PM & 7PM

Wed., Dec. 17th - 4PM & 7PM

Soup Suppers each Wednesday during Advent from 5-6:30PM

Free will donation

Christmas Choir Concert: Sunday, Dec. 7th - 4PM

Children's Christmas Services:

Sunday, Dec. 21st - 6PM

Wednesday, Dec. 24th - 6PM

Christmas Eve: Candlelight - 9PM

Christmas Day: 10AM +Communion

New Year's Eve: 5PM +Communion





Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Was Born

St. Paul Lutheran School

December 2014

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth."
Psalm 96:1

As we begin December, let us prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of our Lord; not only His first coming as a baby long ago but also for His second coming when He shall reign forever!

Important December Dates

Dec. 3	Advent Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 3-7	Scholastic 2 for 1 Book Fair	
Dec. 5	Wear your school theme shirt	
Dec. 7	St. Paul Christmas Concert	4:00 p.m.
	Dinner following sponsored by the Student Council	
Dec. 10	Advent Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 17	Advent Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 19	Chapel service, last day of class before Christmas Break	
Dec. 20- Jan. 4	Christmas Vacation	
Dec. 21	Children's Christmas Service	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 24	Children's Christmas Service	6:00 p.m.



Practices for the Children's Christmas programs start on Dec. 8th. Practice times and dates are available in the school office. If you are able to stay with students not practicing please contact your child's teacher or school office as soon as possible.

As the giving season approaches, the congregation is looking forward to giving monetary gifts to the faculty, janitors and cooks. Please consider helping us by placing your donation in an envelope and placing it in the offering plate or giving it to the office.

Christmas candy bags will once again be given out to the children after the Children's Christmas Services. If you would like to donate candy (for 300 bags) or money to help defray the costs, please take your donation to the school office no later than Dec. 15th. Thanks for your help!

If there is a school delay or cancellation, you will see notifications on any of the major television or radio stations and through the School Reach phone system.



School Musical Opportunities



Dec. 7	Church Christmas Concert: all school choirs, Junior Bells, Band,	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 10	Cantate Choir	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	Cherub Choir	11:00 p.m.
Dec. 17	Free Spirit Choir	4:00 p.m.

Spartan Sports Our basketball season for boys and girls on the B-teams finishes up this month. The girls start the play followed by the boys. Come and support the children as they use their God-given talents.



December

Girl's & Boy's B-team Basketball


















Dec. 2	at St. Paul, Flint	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	with St. Paul, Lapeer	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 6	Peace Invitational Tournament (boys & girls)	TBA
Dec. 12	with Christ the King, Sebawaing	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	home with St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 19	at St. Michaels, Richville	6:00 p.m.



Blessings to you and your family from the St. Paul Lutheran Church and School faculty and staff!

December 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Notes Bible Study Adult Instruction Class Sunday School	1 2:45-3:30PM Church Band 4-8PM Christmas in the Village – Parade at 6PM; Caroling following 7PM Stephen Ministry Handbells Co-ed Volleyball	2 9-11AM Storyhour 1-3PM Quilting 7:30PM AA	3 9AM Bible Study 4PM Advent Worship <i>Men's Choir</i> 5-6:30PM Soup Supper 6PM Choir 7PM Advent Worship <i>Men's Choir</i> 8PM Council	4  6:15PM Praise Team 6:30PM Oils of the Bible	5	6 <i>BOGO Book Fair</i> 9AM Choir Rehearsal  7:30PM Worship
7 <i>BOGO Book Fair</i>  8:30AM Worship+C <i>Church Choir</i> 9:45AM **See Notes**  11AM Worship <i>Church Choir</i> 4PM Christmas Concert 5PM Fiesta Dinner 6:30-8:30PM HS Youth	8 2:45-3:30PM Church Band 7PM Stephen Ministry Co-ed Volleyball	9 9-11AM Storyhour 1-3PM Quilting 7:30PM AA Heroes	10 9AM Bible Study 4PM Advent Worship <i>Cantate Choir</i> 5-6:30PM Soup Supper 6PM Choir 7PM Advent Worship	11  6:15PM Praise Team	12 <i>Messenger Deadline</i> 9AM-6PM Gift Wrapping 5PM Rehearsal	13 9AM-7PM Scrapbooking/Crafts 1:30PM Wedding  7:30PM Worship+C
14  8:30AM Worship <i>Church Band</i> 9:45AM **See Notes**  11AM Worship+C <i>Cherub Choir</i> 1:30PM Voters' Meeting 5-8PM Jr. Youth at Bay Shore Camp 6PM Trustees	15 6PM Giving Tree Assembly 7PM Stephen Ministry Handbells Co-ed Volleyball	16 9-11AM Storyhour 1-3PM Quilting 7:30PM AA	17 9AM Bible Study 4PM Advent Worship <i>Free Spirit Choir</i> 5-6:30PM Soup Supper 6PM Parent Meeting 6PM Choir 7PM Advent Worship 8PM Elders	18  6:15PM Praise Team 6:30PM Essential Oils 101	19	20  7:30PM Worship
21  8:30AM Worship+C <i>Handbells</i> 9:45AM ** See Notes**  11AM Worship Contemporary 3-5PM HS Youth 6PM Children's Service	22 7PM Stephen Ministry Handbells Co-ed Volleyball	23 7:30PM AA	24 <i>Office Open 9AM-12PM</i> 6PM Children's Service 9PM Candlelight Service	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10AM Worship +C <i>Men's Choir/ Handbells/Brass</i> <i>Offices Closed</i>	26 <i>Offices Closed</i>	27  7:30PM Worship+C
28  8:30AM Worship 9:45AM **See Notes**  11AM Worship+C Contemporary 4-6PM Jr. Youth 6:30-8:30PM HS Youth	29	30 8AM Assemble Messenger 7:30PM AA	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 5PM Worship +C			



Youth News

412 Youth High School Ministry December Events

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1st Timothy 4:12

Sunday, December 7th 6:30-8:30pm

Youth Night

Topic: All in the Family – A look back at *The Giver* and how to handle Family relationships

Think about your family. Real life families are messy! The ways we are different can be great, but can also be what creates strife in a family. What are some of the characteristics within your family that are different for each person? How do these create conflict?

Sunday, December 21st 3-5pm - NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!!!!

Youth Night

Topic: Alones, But Never Alone

This week we will focus on Faith & Grace alone, and how God was not fair with us. He didn't give us what we deserve, which is hell and death. Instead he gave us Jesus and life.

Sunday, December 28th 6:30-8:30pm

Youth Night

Topic: "Uh, Winning?" - The Error of Defying God

The longer and more intensely we defy God, the harder our hearts become—and the harder it is to come to our senses and let God take the wheel, heal us, and grant us peace and rest.



Youth News

412 Youth Jr. High Ministry December Events

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1st Timothy 4:12

Sunday, December 14th 5-8pm

Youth Night

Theme: Overcome – 1 John 5:1-5

We will be heading out to Bay Shore Camp in Sebewaing for an awesome night of Pizza, Pop, Reball (indoor paintball) and Bible Study. Spaces are limited and on a first come first serve basis.

Sunday, December 28th 4-6pm

Youth Night

Post-Christmas Pre-New Years Eve Party

Topic: Resolutions

*We stand on the threshold of a new year. Most people generally look at the new year as a fresh beginning, as an opportunity to kind of start over, to overcome a habit, or do a better job of something they see as important and that needs improvement. It may be developing different priorities, using our time better, or a whole host of things that people would like to change. But the new year is a time to reflect and think about what the past year has brought and what the new year could bring. It is a time to stop and analyze, to take stock of our priorities, values, pursuits, and goals. We need to ask questions like "Who am I, what am I doing with my life? What should I be doing as a Christian with my life and the stewardship God has given me?" After all, according to the Word of God, all of life is a stewardship--a stewardship of our **time, talents, treasures**, and God's **truth**. In other words, since God's plan and our stewardships revolve around and through the life of His Son, Jesus Christ, we need to each ask "How well am I responding to the Savior and the spiritual life that He has given me?"*